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**DOES SONNY KING
OWN JIM GARVIN?**

August 1979
47727 \$1.25

Wrestling

**Did Bruno Really Say
"BACKLUND IS GOOD ...
BUT I AM BETTER!"**



**HARLEY RACE:
"I'M SICK AND
TIRED OF
BEING CALLED
A SECOND-RATE
CHAMPION!"**

**Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat:
WILL THEIR CAREERS
END BECAUSE OF
THIS MATCH?**



when I planned to **retire before**

this is the business that made it possible

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that

business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

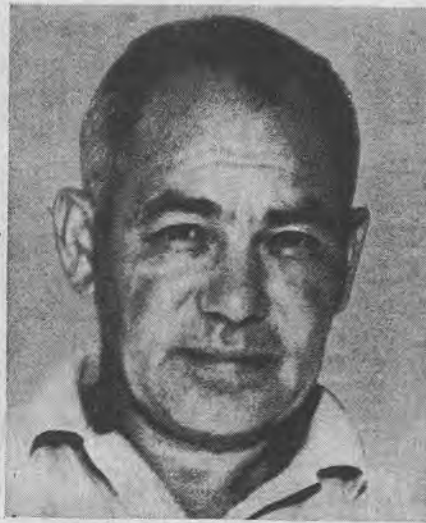
"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only \$1985 starts a Duraclean dealership, and the company will finance the balance of the total \$5900 cost, without interest or finance charges.) I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big

fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

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"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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INSIDE

Wrestling

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We teach your 10 fingers to make beautiful music



Free booklets reveal the secret of teaching yourself to play the guitar, the piano, or spinet organ — the “right” way.

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King
Editor-in-Chief

It's amazing how suddenly a man can change. For no apparent reason, and seemingly overnight, a wrestler can turn from a fair, decent athlete into a devious, ruthless rulebreaker.

And now it's happened to Pat Patterson.

Patterson was for years one of the most respected wrestlers in the world. To this day, he remains one of the most popular athletes to ever appear on the West Coast, even though he has been absent from that area for nearly five years. Now he's in the WWF. And any resemblance to the Pat Patterson the California fans loved and the one who is earning the hatred of East Coast fans is purely coincidental.

I tried to find out the reason for Patterson's shocking transformation. All it got me was his dressing room door slammed in my face.

"No questions from you or anyone else," Patterson growled. "From now on, all my talking will be done in the ring. And that's one place ain't nobody can shut me up. You listening, Backlund? DiBiase?"

So the mystery of why Pat Patterson became a rulebreaker remains unsolved. With his veteran skills combined with his manager, the Grand Wizard's evil cunning, Patterson is a deadly force in WWF wrestling.

*

*

*

The entire wrestling world is at a fever pitch in anticipation of our brand new magazine, PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. We expect it to be the finest new wrestling magazine in the last 20 years.

All of your favorite INSIDE WRESTLING columnists have contributed to the debut issue. And check out that back cover--a beautiful full-color pinup of Bob Backlund shaking hands with Rick Steamboat! PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED goes on sale June 26. It's a must for all wrestling fans.

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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

HAIL THE NEW WWF tag team champions, John and Jerry Valiant. Yet, save a word of praise for Jimmy Valiant, a man who couldn't be in the right place at the right time.

When it comes to tag team wrestling genius, there is no mind or body more wondrous than the one belonging to Jimmy Valiant. For many years, he has awed the fans with his greatness. Admittedly, the simple and stupid have booed him, but their opinion means nothing. Those in the know treasure Valiant's splendor.

When Jim and John Valiant returned to the WWF, it was assumed the pair would easily capture the federation's tag team title. Another golden era was in the offing.

Then disaster struck. Jim took sick. Jerry Valiant was quickly summoned. Though weak in body, Jimmy was strong in mind. His guidance, along with the strategies of manager Lou Albano, allowed John and Jerry to capture the WWF title and begin what promises to be one of the great reigns of all time.

So far, most of the attention is focused on the champions, as it should be. Jim has been pushed from the spotlight. He now stands at the side, watching others enjoy the



fame and fortune that should have been his. One can only guess how that must eat at the great man's pride.

It's not easy interviewing Jim Valiant these days. The grappler lives in his brothers' shadow. For a man who craves and deserves attention, this is the worst torture of all. Jim is used to taking whatever bothers him and torturing the life out of it. But what can he do to his own brothers?

"They couldn't be champions without me, y'know," Jim begins. "I did everything. Everything but expect them to win so quickly. I figured they'd lose a couple of times before getting the feel of it. Instead, they beat those

Jimmy Valiant elbowsmashes a prone opponent. With brothers John and Jerry as champs, Jimmy seems left out.

bums easily. Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko. They were champions? Bums! BUMS! I couldn't believe how easily they got taken. A disgrace!

"Now, John and Jerry are very good. The best around. But I'm responsible for that. It was my instruction, my strategies, *my genius* that brought them to the top. They wear the belts. I wanted the feel of that belt around my waist. It feels so good. So damn good."

Jimmy walks around the room aimlessly. He picks up a book, pages through it, then

(Continued on page 50)

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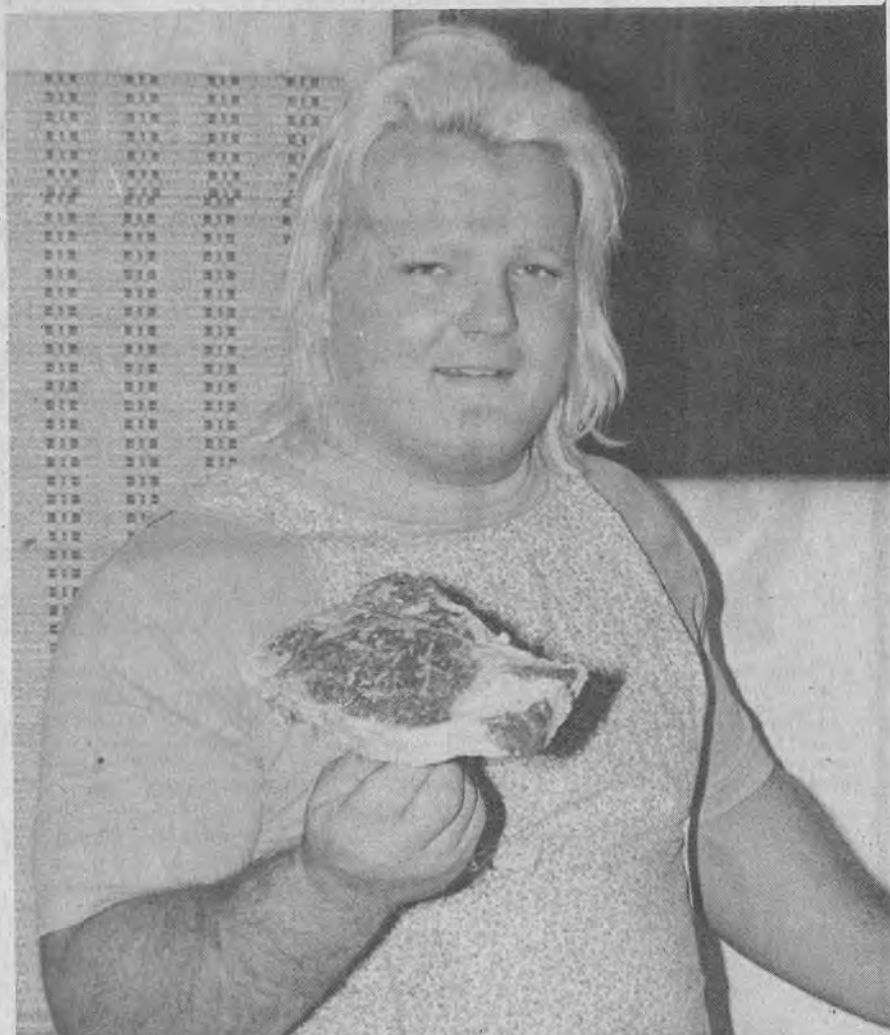
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Greg Valentine is about to cook a piece of meat, "Much the same way I'll cook Bob Backlund," he claims. The entire editorial staff of **INSIDE WRESTLING** visited Valentine recently. The results were disappointing.

I WAS SHOCKED.
So was everyone else.

Greg Valentine is a nice guy! If you're surprised, imagine my astonishment. I couldn't think of any other wrestler to serve as a moral opposite of myself. Valentine twisted everything I held dear.

For me to consider him a nice guy both bewildered and unnerved me. It evoked a round of patronizing chuckles from the office. The laughs stopped when I told them what I wanted to do.

It would be a first. The entire staff of **INSIDE WRESTLING** would converge upon Valentine's hotel room and talk with him. I wanted my friends and colleagues to share in this startling discovery.

Maybe you don't realize how important this was. If Valentine wasn't so bad, maybe I had been wrong about *other* rulebreakers.

Naturally, Dan Shocket wanted to come along. At first, Peter King insisted he had to paint his house. After several inducements, he agreed. Bill Apter brought his camera. Steve Farhood insisted he bring his aunt, a big wrestling fan. Randy Gordon was a little afraid. After all, he'd practiced many a vile prank upon Valentine and his rulebreaker friends. But Gordon showed his rare courage and came along.

Matt Brock drove.

After one minor accident and near head-on collision with a

(Continued on page 46)

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By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

Ivan Koloff is a descendant of the leader of the Russian Revolution, Vladimir Lenin!

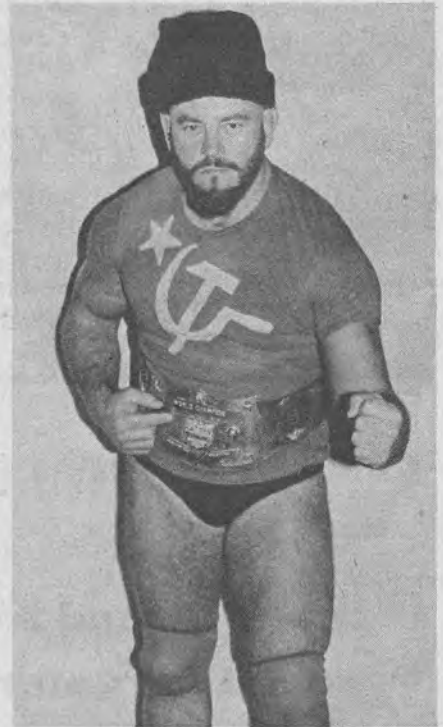
Through painstaking research and difficult investigative reporting, I was able to pry this information from "The Russian Bear's" taut lips. Surprisingly, throughout his controversial and successful professional wrestling career, Koloff has been able to hide this startling fact. One devastating question remains: Is Ivan Koloff plotting with his fellow rulebreakers to start a revolution and take over the world? After all, revolution runs in the Koloff family. Lenin overthrew the czarist government of Russia in 1917 through a bloody and terrifying coup.

"Yes, I am a proud

descendant of Lenin," Koloff plainly stated, after I cornered him with indisputable evidence. "Lenin is an uncle on my mother's side. He was a very great man. In America, there are no men like Lenin. I am lucky to have his brilliant blood in me. That is the main reason I am the greatest wrestler in the world."

"I have been preaching many of Lenin's ideals to my fellow rulebreakers. We have a strong base and we will no longer be abused by greedy, capitalist promoters. I have been telling my cohorts all along, 'Rulebreakers unite; All we have to lose are our chains!' First we conquer wrestling, then the world!"

Ivan Koloff is a dangerous man. Don't invite him to your next cocktail party. For the sake of wrestling. For the sake of freedom. For the sake of mankind.



Note the revolutionary pose of "The Russian Bear," Ivan Koloff (above). He is a direct descendant of Vladimir Lenin! AWA champ Nick Bockwinkel and NWA king Harley Race (left) are not plotting to dethrone WWF titleholder Bob Backlund.



RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: Nick Bockwinkel and Harley Race are plotting to overthrow Bob Backlund and dominate the WWF! The proof is there. Race has defended his NWA title in the WWF. He is clearly pointing towards a showdown with champion Backlund. Bockwinkel has been spotted at ringside of several key WWF matches. By his side has been the shrewd and destructive figure of Bobby Heenan.

(Continued on page 58)

Now—enjoy a life of unbelievable riches, lasting love and constant protection with the secrets in this startling WITCH BOOK—

THE MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT

Whatever it is you need or want, Witchcraft can get it for you quickly, easily, and automatically, say these experts. You'll discover how it can bring abundant and overflowing wealth, find or bring back a lover, ward off evil influences, and much more—step-by-step in plain English, with complete easy-to-follow instructions!

Yes... Witchcraft! Every time you hear the word it brings with it the feelings of deep occult secrets—secrets that you would like to know so that your life can be better; so that your enemies will stop bothering you; so that serenity, love, power and comfort can be yours!

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BRINGS AUTOMATIC ASSURED SUCCESS!

Witchcraft can bring your heart's desire! You can use it to heal someone, influence the boss to give you that raise, or make someone stop bothering you! It's easy! The easiest thing in the world! You don't have to be wealthy or super-intelligent to get started! Thousands of ordinary people all over the world are using Witchcraft Power right now!

Witches have known for centuries that people are scared of them and their powers! And rightly so! NOW YOU CAN SHARE THE SAME POWER that gives you—literally—life and death control over other persons! Is someone bothering you? No problem at all, with Magic Witchcraft. For example, there is a spell called the "Cross Not My Path" ritual, for people who are having neighbor trouble. When you use it, you know you will never again have trouble with this neighbor!

With these amazing Witchcraft secrets, other people will look up to you—in awe—you'll automatically dazzle others with your power to make things happen at your will, you'll be Master of your destiny, and never have to apologize to anyone for anything!

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You'll see how to get paid without working... how to get expensive clothes and furs FREE... how to get a first-class plane seat FREE... how to vacation at the finest hotels, motels, pools and pleasure palaces, start living like a millionaire as Witches do!

AMAZING TECHNIQUE HAS HELPED THOUSANDS!

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miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

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Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

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• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? You CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chant on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper. YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **SECRETS OF SILENT PERSUASION!**—There is a magic handshake that Witches often use, revealed on page 62. With this secret, you can implant a thought in someone's mind! You can use this Witchcraft power to dominate others! Control your boss! Make someone love you! Leave your enemies groveling in the dust! There is even a gazing technique Witches use on page 45, for identical thoughts. With this secret, you can read your friend's mind and share his or her identical thoughts!

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For centuries, these Witchcraft secrets were hushed up, so that those in power could stay in power! Feudal lords kept their bondsmen as slaves. Factory owners kept their employees in dreaded sweatshops, because these masters knew they must not allow their workers to realize that they need not labor their lives away. Witchcraft was suppressed because it works! Not because of any "evil" in it. If it hadn't worked, no one would have worried about it. If you want to gain power, all you need is this amazing Witch Book!

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• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

• **THE WITCH'S BLACK MIRROR!**—Just as your TV set has been called your "window on the world," so the Black Mirror is your "window on the psychic world"—the world of the unknown. Making your own personal Black Mirror takes only a few moments and can open the way to unguessable visions. All you need is a bowl of water, some ink, and the chant on page 23. Suddenly you will see scenes from other places and times, or any scene you wish to see!

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NAMES MAKI

"Nature Boy" **BUDDY ROGERS** has issued a heated challenge to "Nature Boy" **RIC FLAIR**.

"That bum Ric Flair has the audacity to say *he* invented my patented hold, the figure-four leglock!" Rogers exclaimed in an exclusive interview. "Not only that, to add insult, he's swiped my nickname, Nature Boy! I want to wrestle this lowlife and teach him what it's



BUDDY ROGERS

like to be whipped by the master—ME!"

"Buddy Rogers, Buddy Rogers, that's all I ever hear about!" was Flair's response. "People say I look like him. People say I talk like him. People say I strut like him. Look, I have my own style, my own nickname and I invented the figure-four. That thing he uses is not a figure-four. It's just a cheap legtwister of some sort. Rogers, you are no competition for me. Zilcho baby!"

Believe it or not, **DUSTY**



RIC FLAIR

RHODES teamed with his arch-enemy **MAD DOG VACHON** against **OLE ANDERSON** and **IVAN KOLOFF**. "I needed a crazy man, a nut to team with against them!" **Dusty** said. "The Mad Dog is the most insane man I could think of. And we did some number on their heads! Oooh. It was funky!"

AWA champion **NICK BOCKWINKEL** ventured to the Mid-Atlantic region and took on



NICK BOCKWINKEL

the challenge of **RICK STEAMBOAT**. The amazing Steamboat was on the verge of winning when Bockwinkel pulled a foreign object and made certain he would be disqualified. Another tough break for Steamboat... **KILLER KAHN** seriously injured **JACK BRISCO** in a vicious sneak attack in Florida... By the way, award-winning announcer **GORDON SOLIE** suffered a bad ankle injury because of a thoughtless fan. Solie, trying to scurry out of the ring during a melee between two wrestlers, slipped when a fan threw soda onto the mat. What a thoroughly rotten thing for a fan to do to a great guy... Florida champion **JIM GARVIN** has accepted the challenge of **MIKE**



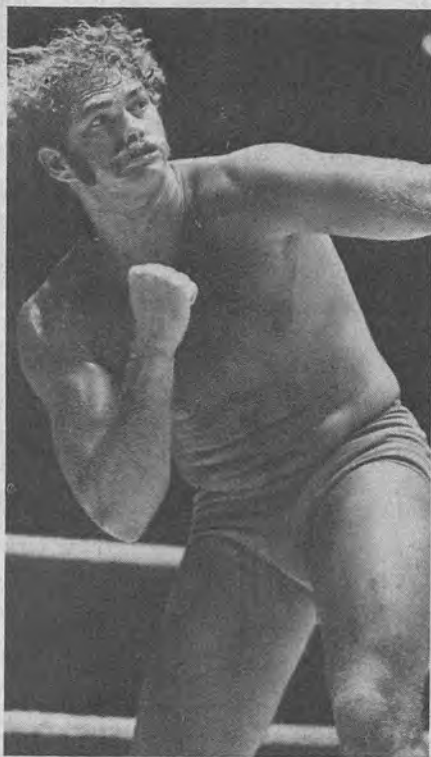
MIKE GRAHAM

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

GRAHAM. "It'll be great to wrestle a scientific wrestler for a change," Jim said.

GINO HERNANDEZ tried to show Detroit fans how vicious he could be, opposing THE SHEIK. After the match, the bloody and battered Hernandez could not be reached for comment... Heading the rumor list: HARLEY RACE has put a bounty on the head of RON FULLER... MR. WRESTLING II received a warm welcome from his thousands of fans in Atlanta when he returned for several



RON FULLER

shows after a lengthy tour in Louisiana (he has since returned to Louisiana)... FRED BLASSIE is grooming HOSSIEN ARAB for a title match against BOB BACKLUND.

"Gentleman" JERRY VALIANT and "Luscious" JOHN

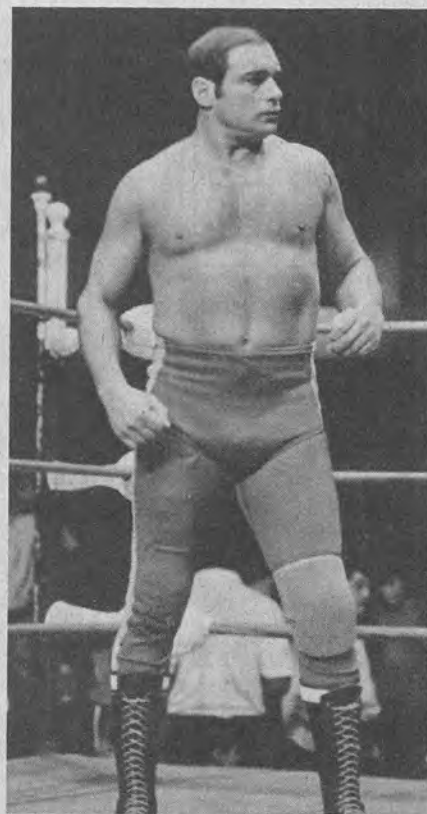


KEN PATERA



MIL MASCARAS

VALIANT continue to defend the WWF tag team title under the leadership of CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO. "Handsome" JIMMY VALIANT is wrestling as a single and is thus far undefeated... KEN PATERA can't gain a solid win over JIMMY SNUKA. And Snuka has the same problem. All their victories are tainted in one way or another.



JOHN TOLOS

MIL MASCARAS recently wrestled in Puerto Rico and is close to signing for WWF matches. The fans would really love to see him... JOHN TOLOS and AKIO SATO have captured the prestigious Western States tag team championship.

SPIROS ARION is still on the "missing" list... The Mid-Atlantic wrestling commission has the "loaded" thumb of ERNIE LADD under investigation... PAMPERO FIRPO doing well in Detroit battles... TERRY FUNK is accepting some matches again. He is also traveling to Hollywood regularly, working on his new movie script.

That's all for now. See you next time! □



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy
Gordon

A MAJORITY OF my mail asks "Where is Dino Bravo?" Dino has been busy trying to recapture the Canadian heavyweight title from Greg Valentine. This accounts for his absence from WWF arenas.

"Tell my loyal fans I miss them," says Bravo. "You can also tell them it won't be all that long before I'll be back wrestling in front of them. It's terribly hard being away from so many people you care so much for." Let me tell you, Bravo has not changed one bit since the first night he set foot inside an arena as a pro wrestler. He is a champion in every sense of the word.

NWA champion Harley Race claims he is "not at all impressed" with former NWA champion Buddy Rogers, who is engaging in a highly successful comeback.

"He couldn't wrestle in his prime, which was about 20 years before I was born, and he certainly can't wrestle now," growled Race.

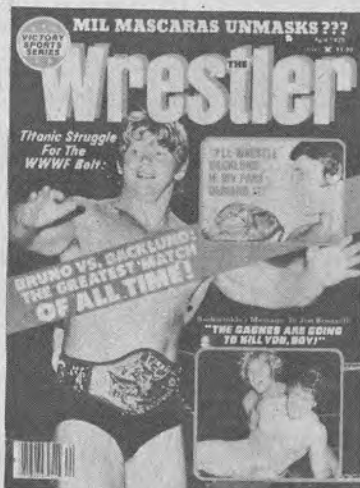
"I hear he wants to challenge me for the crown. Hah! What a joke! Beating up on elderly folks can get me sent up the river for a long time. But if the fans want to see the match, and if there's a promoter inconsiderate enough to allow Rogers to go through with his Kamikaze plan, then I guess I'll just have to wrestle him. I've never been so sure about victory before in my life. Facing Buddy Rogers doesn't scare me at all."

Really, Harley? Can you then explain why you purchased
(Continued on page 48)

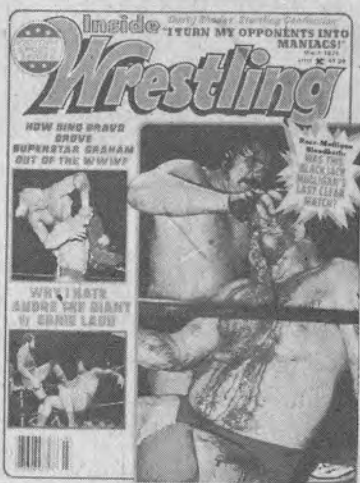
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HOTSEAT

HARLEY RACE:

“I’M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING CALLED A SECOND-RATE CHAMPION!”

THREE WORDS CAPTURE the man. Somber. Sincere. Successful. His reign has been distinguished by crushing victories and tough tenacity. Unlike other champions, he does not shirk from challenges. Nor does he pander to the press and try to cultivate a certain image. Simply, he is what he is. He is Harley Race.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED
BY STEVEN FARHOOD

- Q: What do you say, Harley?
Welcome.
- A: Yeah, ask your questions.
- Q: Uh, excuse me for asking, Harley, but you seem a little hostile.
- A: Why shouldn’t I be?
- Q: I don’t understand.
- A: Yeah, it’s probably above

your head.

Q: No reason to be nasty about...

A: Damn straight there’s a reason. I’ve had it up to here with you wrestling writers.

“

I’ve been champ for over two years. Not once in those two years have the experts given me my due. All you guys have done is tear me down.

”

The experts can jump off a cliff for all Harley Race cares.

Q: But, but why do you feel this way?

A: I’ve been champ for over two

years. Not once in those two years have the experts given me my due. All you guys have done is tear me down, belittle me, put down my skills. I’m sick and tired of being called a second rate champion.

Q: Then you feel the press has been unfair.

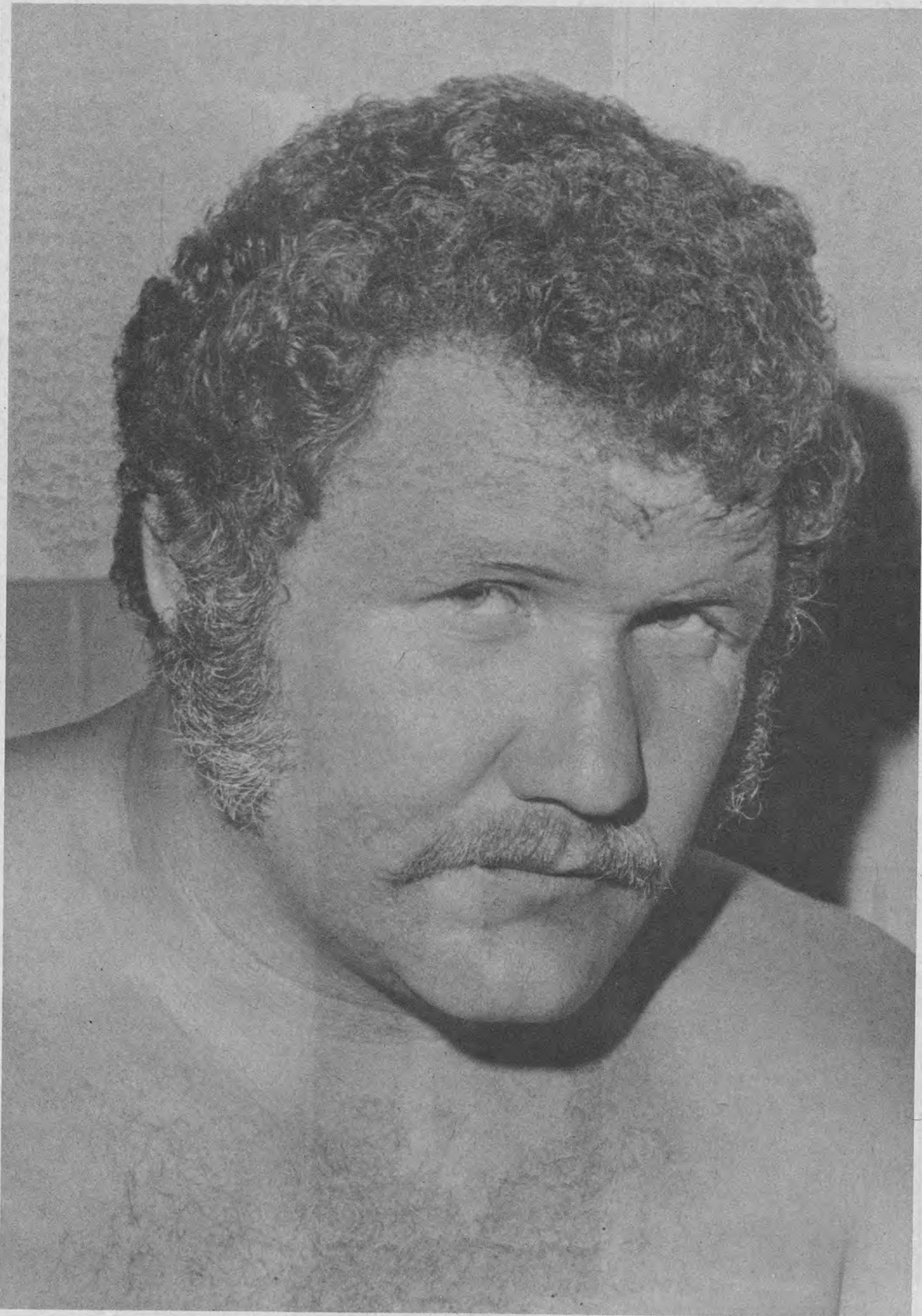
A: Hey, you’re quick.

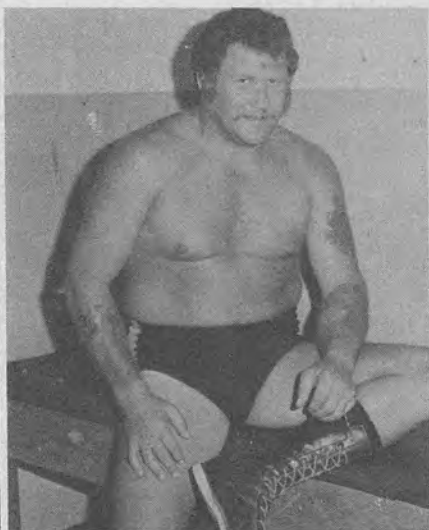
Q: I try to be. Could you be more specific.

A: Okay. First off, I’m a fighting champion. I don’t use lame excuses to get out of matches. I don’t deny another man the chance to come and get my belt.

Q: You say other champions do?

A: Yeah, and the press lays off them for it. I accept any challenge. But that’s never recognized.





66

I don't get dressed up like Rhodes. I don't wear a mask like II or Mascaras. I am what I am, the type the guy in the local bar can identify with.

99

Q: Why do you think this has happened?

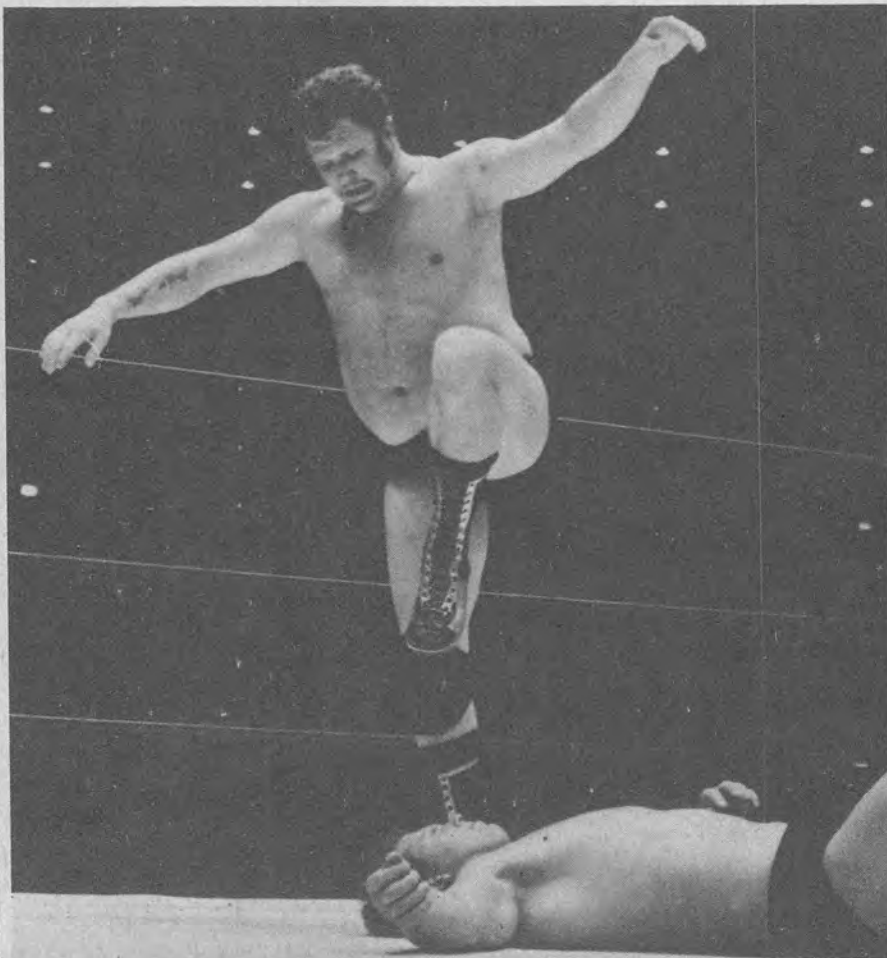
A: Maybe because I don't toot my own horn enough. I don't get dressed up like Rhodes. I don't wear a mask like II or Mascaras. I am what I am, the type the guy in the local bar can identify with. I'm just your typical American citizen. Like typical American citizens, I don't get press unless I do something wrong.

Q: Anything else? You can use this interview for a forum.

A: I've held the belt for over two years. Where's the praise? I've had to handle the toughest wrestlers in the world, the guys in the NWA. No one acknowledges this. Then the public thinks I'm just some burly Joe. I've got a helluva lot of skills which no one will acknowledge.

Q: Are there any wrestlers like you?

A: What's that mean?



NWA champion Race is in command against WWF king Backlund, as Harley softly stomps on Bob (above). A piledriver is used against Dick Murdoch (below).



Q: Uh, any young wrestlers you admire?

A: I don't admire anyone except me. But a couple of kids I respect are Steve Keirn and Mike Graham. I don't like them because good guys make me sick. But they have guts and character, which few wrestlers have.

Q: Is that it?

A: The list of men I respect is small. To get on that list requires someone special. There are very few special people in this world.

Q: That's heavy.

A: Any more questions?

Q: Lots. Tell me, who don't you like.

A: Bob Backlund.

Q: Why?

A: To me, that overrated, under-talented smiling clown represents everything I hate about wrestling. The only thing Backlund has going for him is his idiot smile. Take



Race struggles against a former NWA champion, Terry Funk (above). Race has held the NWA belt much longer than any expert anticipated. A battle of leglocks is hectic with Dory Funk Jr. (below). A well-balanced combination of scientific expertise and pure and simple brawling makes Race so tough.



that away and he's a pile of mediocrity.

Q: You say there's no challenge you'll refuse?

A: Yup.

Q: Yet people have said you won't wrestle aerial artists like Mascaras.

A: Who says?

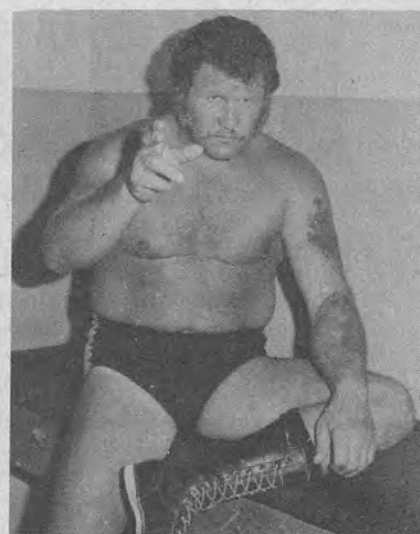
Q: The record shows. Do you

think your style is ineffective against aerial wrestlers?

A: I don't like 'em. Flying though the air isn't wrestling.

Q: Some say it's a higher form.

A: Some say, some say. Wrestlers should stay on the ground and wrestle. Only reason guys like Mascaras soar through the air is fear of



“
I don't admire anyone except me. But a couple of kids I respect are Steve Keirn and Mike Graham. I don't like them because good guys make me sick.
”

getting their bodies rearranged in some real scrapping.

Q: Would you wrestle Mascaras?

A: If the dough's right. Otherwise, let him play Superman.

Q: Do you perceive of yourself as having a positive influence on rookie wrestlers?

A: Yes and no. A lot of what I know and can give them won't help a kid three matches into his career. Once someone has some experience, six months or a year, I can help a lot. Like anything else, this game relies on experience.

Q: You've been champ over two years. At this stage of your career, what are your goals?

A: To be considered the greatest wrestler of all-time by my peers. Writers mean nothing to me. Only my fellow wrestlers matter.

Q: Harley, thanks a bunch.

A: Yeah, kid. □

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

COLUMBUS, GA.

By Kim Lamberth



DUSTY RHODES
vs.
IVAN KOLOFF



A huge crowd gathered to witness a Texas Street Fight between rivals Ivan Koloff and Dusty Rhodes. With both competitors wearing street clothes, this dreadful revenge match began in hate and ended in bloodshed! Driven by the memory of that brutal parking lot beating, Rhodes attacked Koloff with his belt. After the referee awarded the decision to Dusty, Ole Anderson, Koloff's partner in mischief, interfered, causing a brief and vicious melee.

OTHER BOUTS: Ole Anderson retains his TV title with a disqualification victory over Bob Armstrong. Masked Superstar upended Jerry Oates. Bobby Heenan shocked the arena by toppling Tommy Rich.

TOTOWA, N.J.

By Michelle Krak



MR. X
vs.
STEVE TRAVIS



Rookie of the Year Steve Travis excited the overflow crowd with a brilliant battle against hateful Mr. X. The young man showed good form, brilliant maneuvers and sterling courage in overcoming each one of Mr. X's dreadful holds. Finally, with the crowd screaming encouragement, Travis unfurled a magnificent maneuver. Instead of losing with valor, Mr. X forced a disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase whipped Peter Maivia and Greg Valentine. In a 12-minute match, Hussein Arab crunched Dominic DeNucci. Jerry Valiant cheated past Tony Garea.

SPARTANBURG, S.C.

By Rick Sullivan



PAUL JONES
vs.
JIMMY SNUKA



Displaying surprising bravery for a rulebreaker, Paul Jones put his NWA television title on the line against Jimmy Snuka in a no-disqualification match. This was a rare venture for a rulebreaker champ. Snuka combined speed and innovative maneuvers to topple Jones. But since Snuka didn't win within 15 minutes, he came away with only victory, not the title.

OTHER BOUTS: Pedro Morales skinned Brute Bernard. Ric Flair pummeled Joe Palardy.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



TAMPA, FLA.

By Tim Gerlach



JIM GARVIN
vs.
OX BAKER



Jim Garvin defended his Florida title against vicious Ox Baker. At the bell, Garvin circled Baker. Suddenly, Garvin struck like a snake and landed a series of flying dropkicks. The sensational display stunned Baker long enough to allow Garvin to retain Florida title.

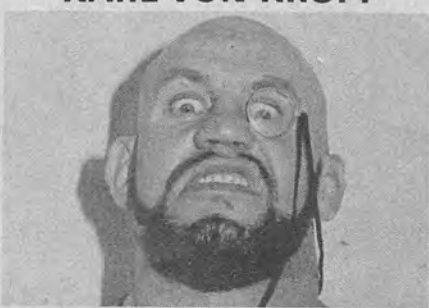
OTHER BOUTS: Buggy McGraw and Don Muraco banished Dusty Rhodes and Ray Candy... Pak Song and Killer Kahn stopped Jack and Jerry Brisco... Don Serrano bested Big Bill Dromo... Jim Shields popped Herb Calvert.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

By Bryan Ford



MR. WRESTLING II
vs.
KARL VON KRUPP



The Superdome was the setting. A Lumberjack match was the condition. Pride was the prize. Two men representing the polarities of wrestling were the participants. Mr. Wrestling II and Karl Von Krupp. It was a terrific match. For a while, it seemed Von Krupp would use his evil brand of rulebreaking and emerge victorious. Not tonight! He pulled all the tricks out from under his mask and won the bout.

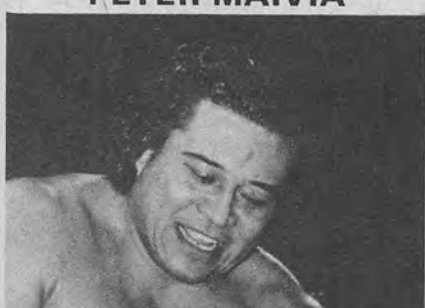
OTHER BOUTS: Charlie Cook and Tony Atlas won by disqualification over Stan Hansen and Bruiser Brodie... Mike George battered Jerry Stubbs.

PORTLAND, ME.

By Daniel Billings



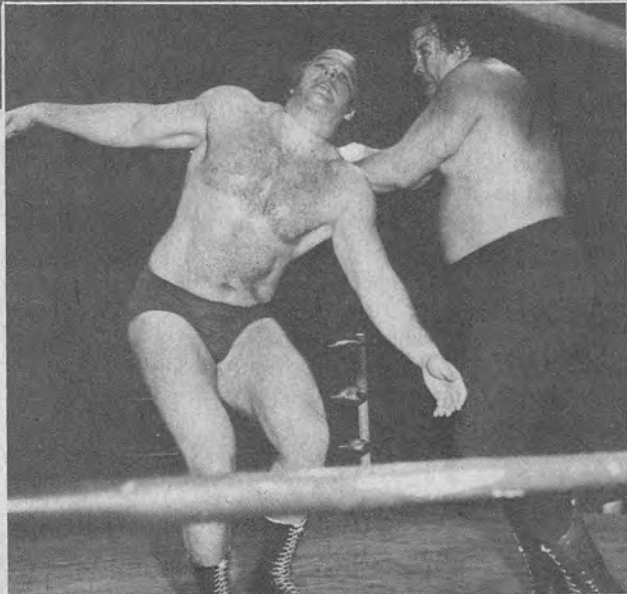
ANDRE THE GIANT
vs.
PETER MAIVIA

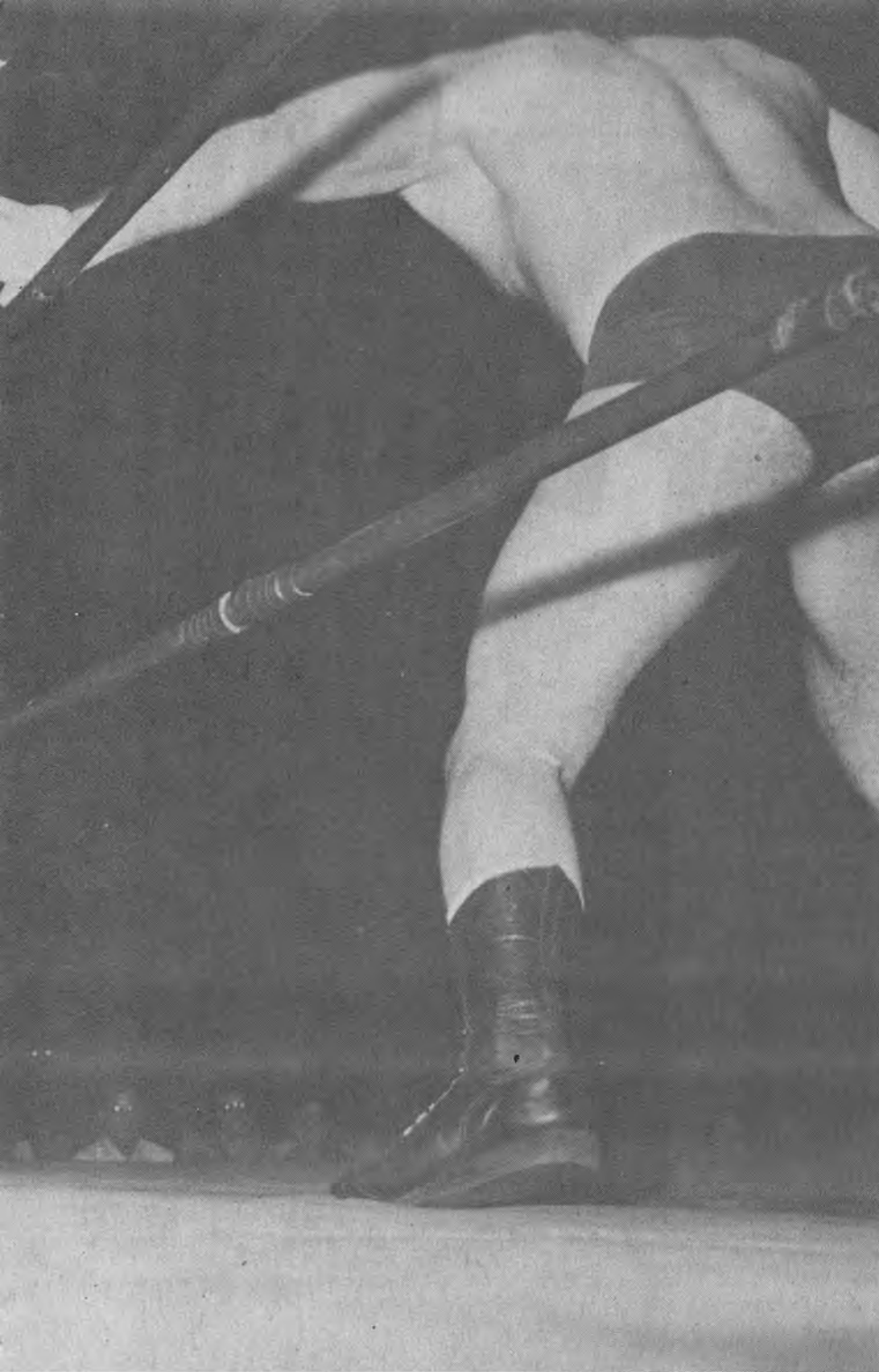


The main bout was Andre the Giant against High Chief Peter Maivia. It was a one-hour time limit bout, but Andre needed only seven minutes to put out Maivia's lights. During the match, Maivia, not content with brutalizing his opponent, attacked several people at ringside. He was quickly neutralized.

OTHER BOUTS: Aided by brother Johnny, Gentleman Jerry Valiant topped Larry Zbyszko... Greg Valentine powdered Steve Travis... Dominic DeNucci crunched Baron Scicluna. □

HOW WRESTLING HAS RUINED MARK LEWIN





At one time, Mark Lewin was one of the most popular wrestlers in the world. He was a man his family pointed to with pride. But the years have turned Lewin into a cruel rulebreaker. Read this impassioned plea by one of Mark Lewin's relatives. You will never feel the same about professional wrestling again

Rulebreaker Mark Lewin tosses Jose Lothario out of the ring as manager Gary Hart looks on with astonishment (above). A berserk Lewin intends to dub Lothario with a metal chair (left)! But Lothario dishes out his own brand of punishment in ring center (far left).

BY RANDY GORDON

THE PUNGENT SMELL of food is a permanent facet of this building. Ovens are constantly in use preparing feasts for visiting children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. One of these marvels

from a bygone era is Mark Lewin's Aunt Birdie. She invited me to talk. And eat.

Before I sat down, Birdie was serving me enough food to stuff a horse. She then rushed into the kitchen to start brewing coffee. She was a happy woman while bustling around. When

there was nothing left to do but talk, Aunt Birdie was no longer happy. There were things she had to say publicly. She would rather have cut out her tongue.

"No one can talk to Mark anymore," she began, "and it's all wrestling's fault. He used to be such a good boy, a man really, a man the family could be proud of. Now, no matter how much I beg him, how much we all beg him, Mark ignores us. He goes around with that Gary Hart, a Cossack if there ever was one. Hart has poisoned my nephew's mind. He won't listen to us. Maybe, I figure, he'll listen if he reads it in a magazine. The family doesn't know what else to do.

"He was such a good boy once. Fair and honest, a pleasure. Friends would get bored about me bragging about my Mark. When he was a tag team champion with Don Curtis, another lovely boy, I went to all their matches. Then I stopped going. They seemed to

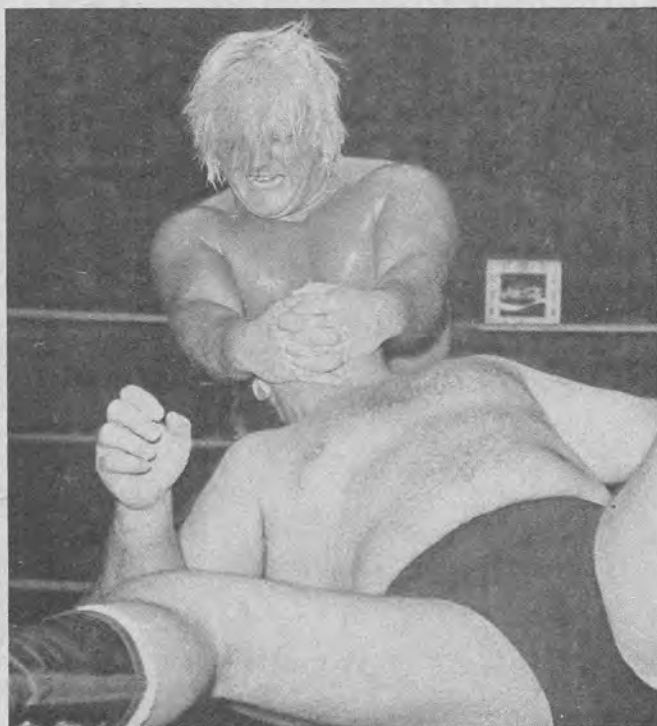
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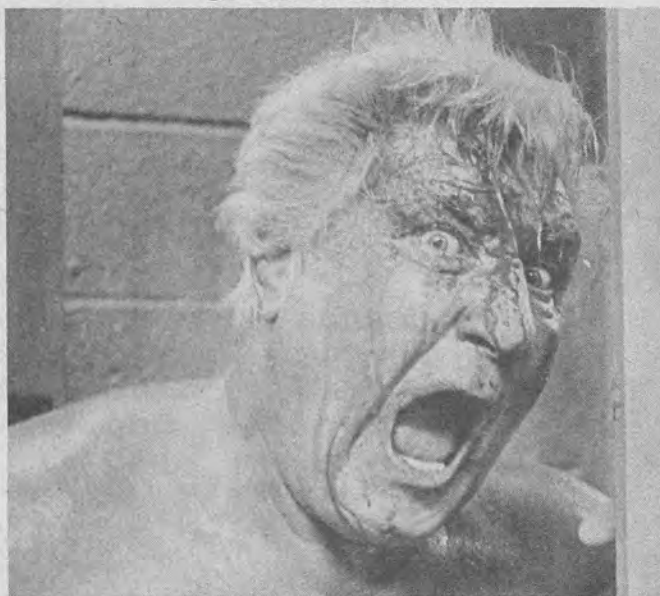
Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

NEW YORK, N.Y.: Only in Manhattan. On a down elevator, I see this lady holding a leash. An empty leash. Seems to be a fad. Turning on the infamous Brock charm, I bend over to pet the invisible dog. Of course, I lose my balance and fall on my face. Been taking amber-colored medicine to relieve the pain. Speaking of pain, what about Greg Valentine? For pure twisted sadism, Valentine earns the Brock Revulsion Trophy. Last winner was a waitress in this Detroit sleaze diner who had a vulture tattooed on her throat. But I don't favor banning Valentine. That's not the way to end his evil. Wrestling is a man's sport. Only way to end a feud or settle an argument is by pitting two grapplers in the ring. Someday a man will stop Valentine. But with deeds, not words.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.: Ever eat dinner with someone holding a mirror and admiring himself between the clam chowder and the salad? Had this experience with Fred Blassie. For reasons not readily apparent, Blassie considers himself handsome. And intelligent. And successful. Oh-for-three. Warping minds, cheating and ordering crippling tactics may work somewhere, but not in wrestling. Not over the long haul. Look at Blassie's records. Ruined Arion. Ruined Rivera. Who knows what further horrors lurk on the horizon. Besides, he stuck me with the check. Used the old I-left-something-in-the-car-trick. Had to stagger nine blocks back to my hotel. Got there and found I'd lost my key. Had to sleep on wooden boxes in the lobby.

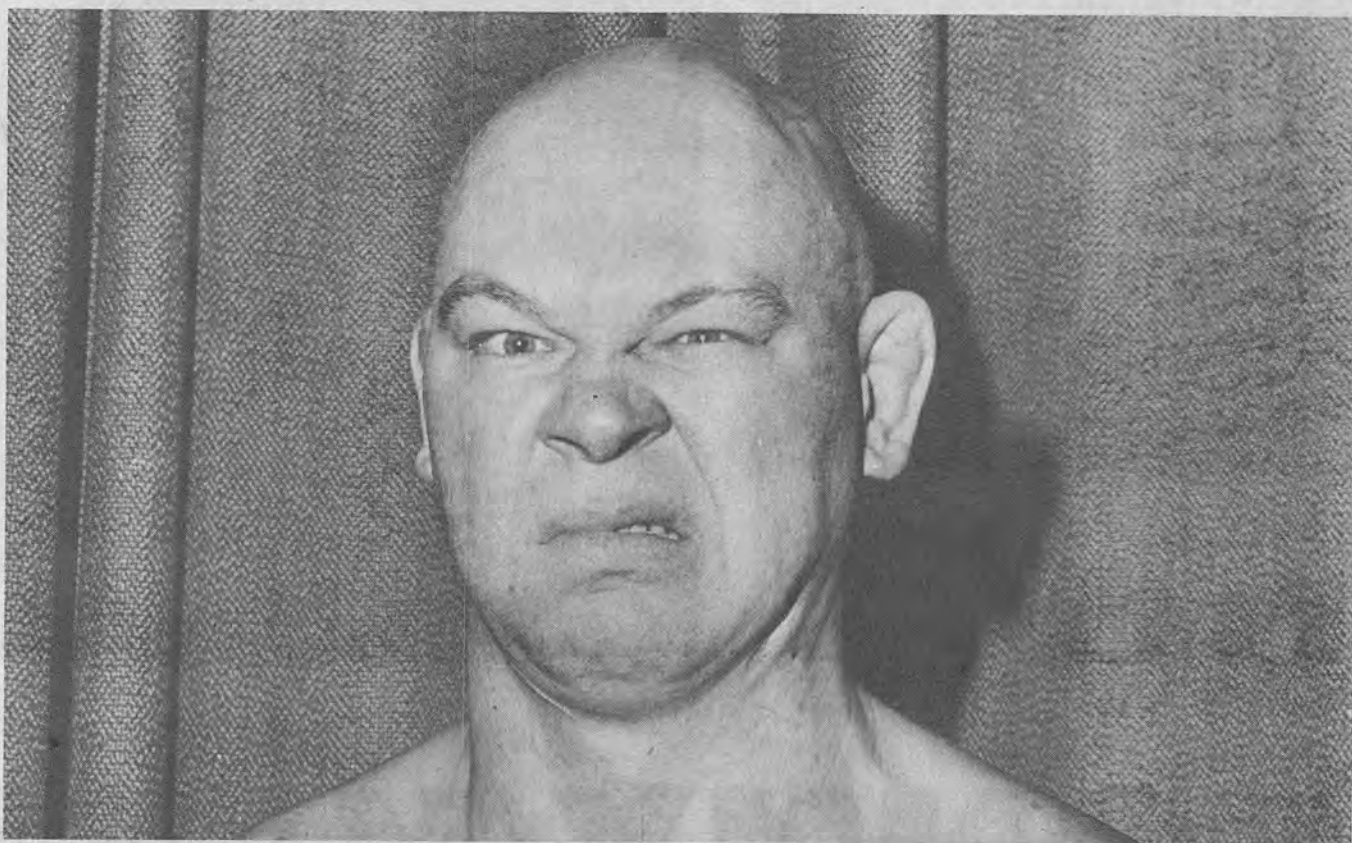


GREG VALENTINE



FRED BLASSIE

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



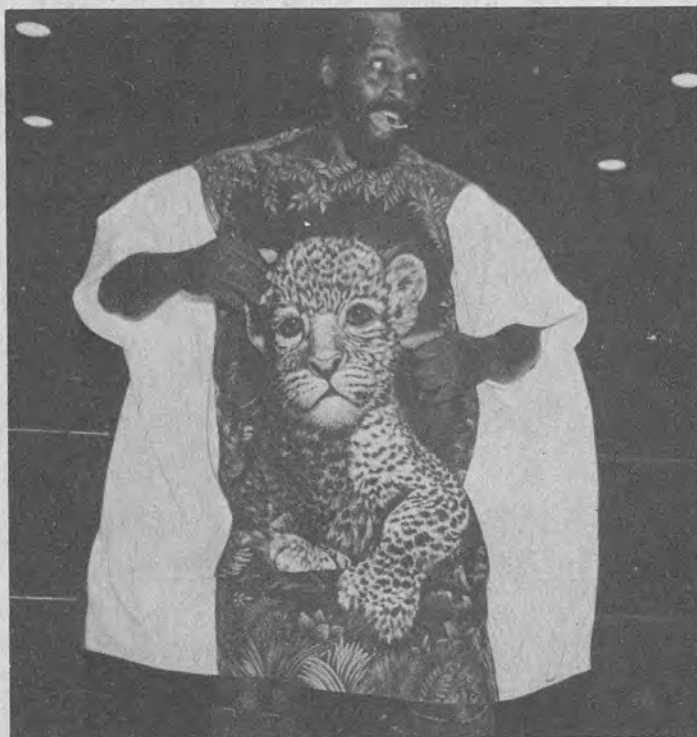
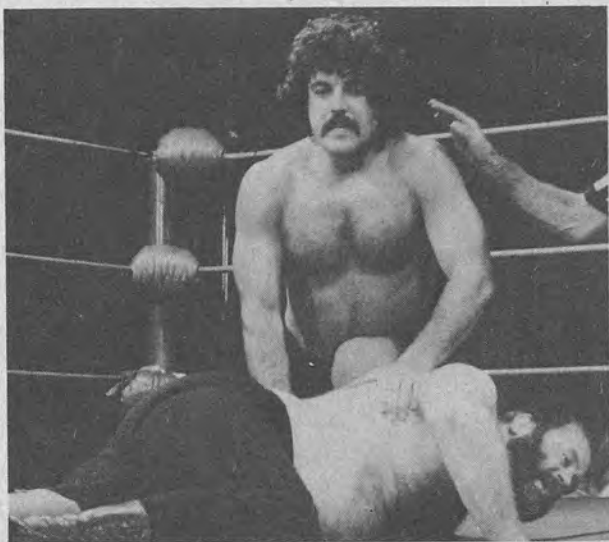
BARON VON RASCHKE

RICHMOND, VA.: Ran into an old nemesis, Baron Von Raschke. A user of the clawhold. Always found the clawhold a fascinating weapon, regardless of its ugly results. Von Raschke is an enemy of mine, so you must understand anything said about him in this column is biased. Anyway, Von Raschke makes his rep by using young wrestlers to further his own hideous desires, then discarding them like old tissue paper. Don't like his arrogance. But enough about him.

ORLANDO, FLA.: Hot rumor passed on to me before my source passed-out. Harley Race is slipping. Could be curtains for the veteran Race. Lacks the intensity in recent matches. Not so much a lack of talent, but a

few sparkplugs are misfiring. In a competitive sport like wrestling, that's disaster. Broached the subject with Race over brunch. Said his reign would last forever. Can't see that. Florida has many, many outstanding young wrestlers. Men like Steve Keirn, Mike Graham and others. The rest of the NWA is well stocked, too. Maybe I'm underestimating Race. Over the past 20 years, Harley Race has been the most consistently underrated champion. Still, I look at those eager young faces and wonder how long Race can fend off their thrusts. Harley's answer was unprintable. Maybe that's the only way to approach it. Until next month, bon voyage. □

Not too long ago, manager Sonny King claimed all scientific wrestlers in Florida were under his command. All but one, that is. Why did King ignore Jim Garvin when making his obviously false claim? Was it merely an oversight, or is there something deeply evil involved?



DOES SONNY KING JIM GARVIN

REVERSE PSYCHOLOGY FROM a master tactician is always hard to combat. When it comes from a man whose reputation for hypnotic strategy is reaching legendary proportions among Florida wrestling fans, it is even worse.

His battle plan was impeccable. By showing us a list which

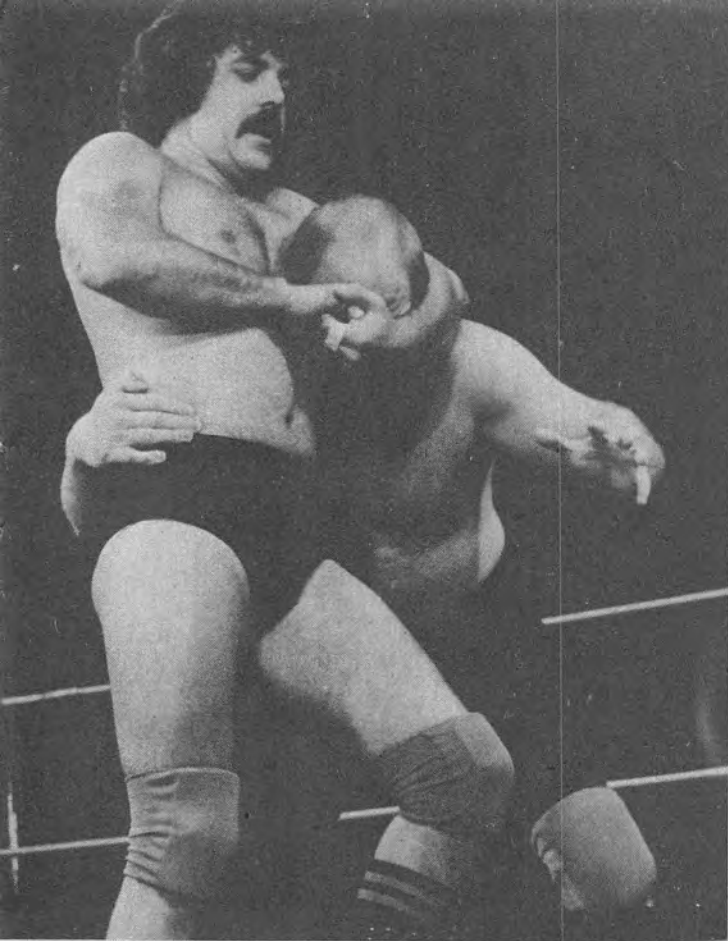
contained those Florida good guys who he supposedly paid off, Sonny King deceived us.

We thought the list was complete. We assumed it was accurate. Thus we ended our search for other scientific wrestlers who might be on King's hoary payroll.

Admittedly, it was an

unforgivable journalistic error. When we saw the list and realized one name was missing, we reacted with relief. Thank Heavens he's not on the list.

Exactly what King wanted us to think. Now we were months behind in legwork. Months behind in interviews. Finally we completed the story and



Florida champion Jim Garvin has grappled his way to the top by whipping rugged foes like Buggy McGraw (far left and above). But shrewd Sonny King (left) would like to dethrone Garvin. Jim (right) remains cool in the heat of what has become a wild, chaotic storm.

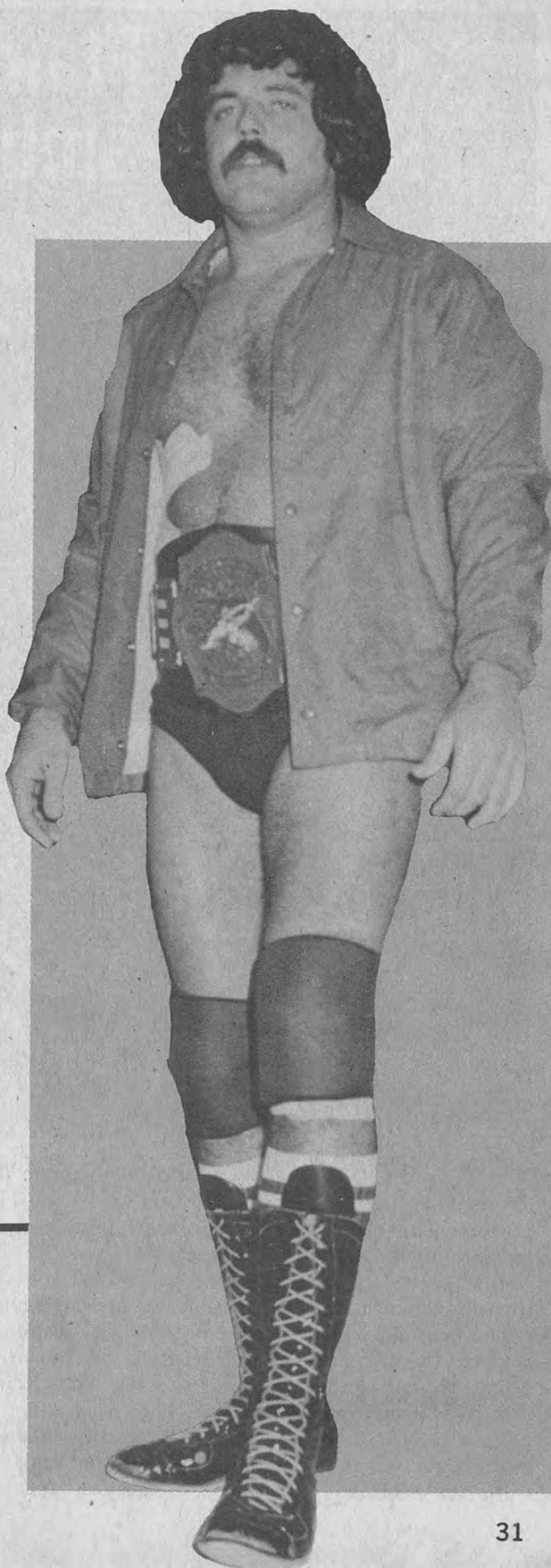
OWN N?

answered this haunting question:
Does Sonny King own Jim Garvin?

"Absolutely not, what are you, crazy or something?" yelled Garvin.

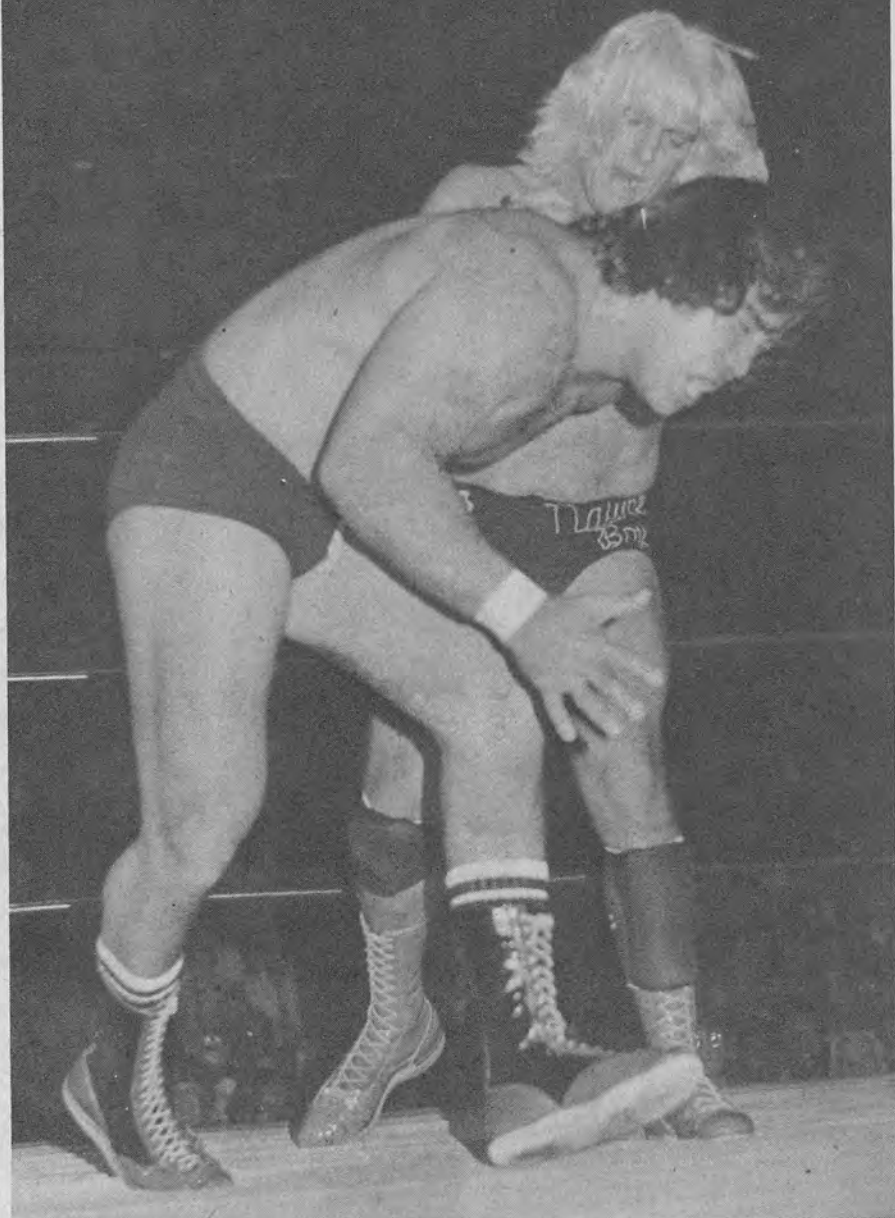
King's response was a sly chuckle.

To understand the enormous
(Continued on page 54)



Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat:

WILL THEIR END BECAUSE OF THE MATCH



IN THE MAJORITY of wrestling bouts, several minutes are generally used just for grapplers to feel each other out. The foes circle warily, feint, try a hold, test strength and watch each other's eyes.

This generally happens between competitors who have wrestled before. Strange as it may sound, it is healthy. By testing each other, a certain level of defensibility emerges. As well as vulnerability.

But this enables both wrestlers

to fully explore their foe's strong and weak points, while retaining a touch of uncertainty.

No wrestler knows another completely. If he does, he might be able to cripple him. Or kill him.

A qualification must be made. Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair totally know each other. They know each other *too* well. It has become very dangerous.

Someone could get hurt. Or worse. They've wrestled many times.

Some may say they have wrestled *too* often.

"Whenever those two guys get together, you know it'll be war," said a Mid-Atlantic area promoter. "That's not the point. What is happening is they know exactly how to hurt each other.

"Add their intense hatred and you've got a scary situation. They have no reason not to use that knowledge."

Illustrative of this terrifying knowledge was their most recent match. As soon as the bell sounded, they were tearing and twisting.

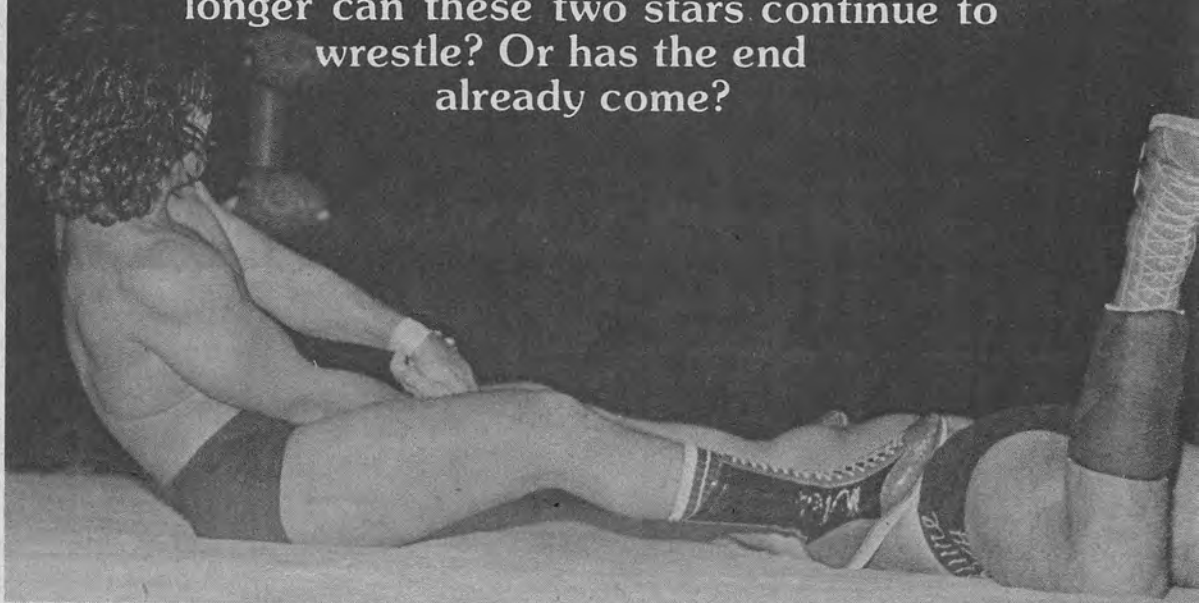
"What's there to wait for?" asked

CAREERS

Titanic struggles exemplify the feud between Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair. Steamboat desperately tries to separate Flair's arm from its socket (below). Rulebreaking usually highlights each Steamboat-Flair encounter (bottom). Will continued warfare end the potential of these two promising careers?

USE
IS
H?

Ric Flair and Rick Steamboat have battled more than 75 times in the past two years. Each man is too aware of the other's weaknesses. With the brutality increasing in every match, how much longer can these two stars continue to wrestle? Or has the end already come?



Flair.

"We don't need any introduction," said Steamboat.

No feints, no exploratory maneuvers.

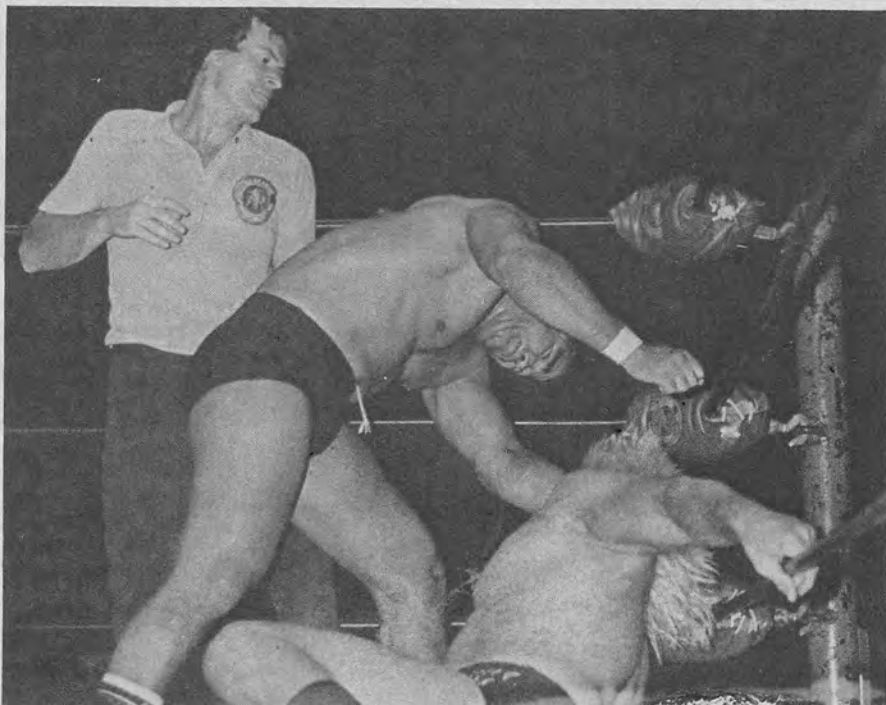
"I know Flair like I know a boil on the back of my hand," Steamboat said. "I know every little pus pocket of his treachery. There's nothing he can do which would surprise me."

Is there anything you can do which will surprise him?

"Maybe," Steamboat said, being purposefully vague.

Neither would admit that they have already exhausted all avenues

(Continued on page 62)



Did Bruno Really



“BACKLUND IS GOOD BUT I AM BETTER”

THE VOICE OVER the telephone was weary.

“Bruno will not come to the phone,” someone said, “so don’t

bother calling again.”

“Look, all we want is a statement. Did he or did he not say, ‘Backlund is good but I am

better?’ All we want is a simple yes or no answer.”

“He won’t speak to you, but I can say he didn’t say it.”

Say . . .

If one simple sentence could change the face of wrestling, it was allegedly uttered by Bruno Sammartino. Did Bruno really say it? If he did, what are the consequences for Bob Backlund's title reign? This may be the story of the year

OOD . . . R!"

"Who are you?"

The phone was hung up.

It had been like that for a couple of weeks. At first, only a

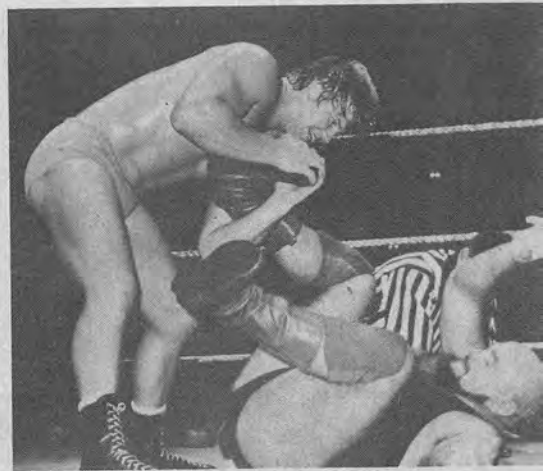
couple of people claimed to have heard it. Then it seemed as if Bruno had claimed to be better than Backlund in front of 2,000 people, because at least that many said, "I was there when he said it."

"Backlund is good but I am better," Seven words. Spoken by most wrestlers, it would seem harmless enough. But for Bruno Sammartino to say it about Bob Backlund, it is shocking news. It is a claim that might wreck the young man's career. No foe could wound Backlund as deeply as those words.

For almost 15 years, Bruno Sammartino was the dominant force in wrestling. As champion of the WWF, he reigned over the sport like a Caesar, worshipped and unconquerable. When Backlund became champ, he had to suffer through the inevitable comparisons between himself and Bruno. Bruno's achievements will overshadow the sport for decades to come. Backlund, as the first man to try to fill Bruno's boots, is forced to carry the full weight of Bruno's legend on his shoulders. It could crush anybody. Most men wouldn't dare try. Bob's courage is heroic. But to be insulted by Bruno, to have the beloved ex-champion say, "Backlund is good, but I am better," would be too much for any man to bear. No one would know this better than Bruno.

That's why it seemed impossible for Bruno to have said this. No one is more aware than Sammartino of the sensitivity of the situation. When the remark became public knowledge, it seemed time to find out if Bruno actually said it. That's when things became confusing.

At first, Bruno denied saying anything at all. Then someone asked if he agreed with the statement. "That's not for me to

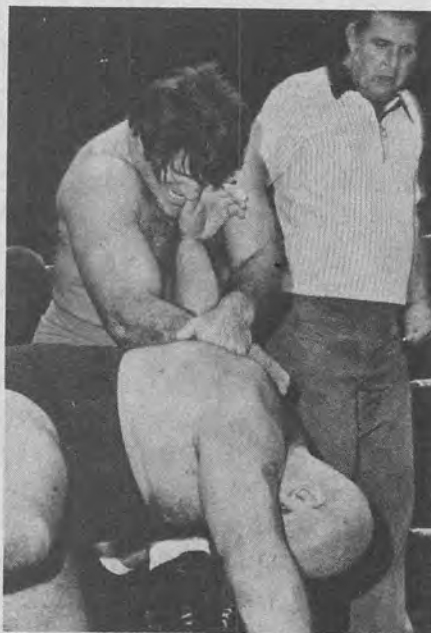


Bob Backlund in action against foes who Bruno Sammartino has also faced, Ivan Koloff (above), Spiros Arion (below) and Superstar Billy Graham (bottom).





Bruno battles the common opposition, Arion (above), Ivan Koloff (right) and Graham (below). Graham and Koloff have both defeated Bruno for the WWF championship. Did Bruno claim he was better than Backlund?



say," Bruno replied. He was then asked, "What if someone else said it? Would you agree?"

A tape of the interview has Bruno saying, "Of course I'd agree." Those present say he was smiling as he spoke, as if the reply were a joke. Others say the smile was one of pride, as if he fully agreed he was superior to Backlund. Later, Bruno claimed he meant it as a joke. But no one can be sure.

Then the statement, "Backlund is good but I am better" received further circulation. Soon, people were saying, "Bruno even admitted to saying it!" It didn't matter that he never did. People thought he did, and that was just as bad.

Backlund has shown a noble character throughout the entire controversy. Though the pain must be excruciating, he hasn't said a word. He just goes out and defends his title successfully. He lets his record do his talking.

Bob's friends will talk, however. Tony Garea said, "It took an incredible amount of courage for Bob to follow Bruno. As much as we all wanted to be champion, there was something about being a scientific champion after Bruno that was scary. Sometimes, I think Graham lasted as long as he did because many of us were subconsciously afraid to be champion. Bob has dared to be great."

"Now, with it looking like Bruno has dismissed him, Bob's job is twice as tough. He not only has to prove himself Bruno's equal, but he has to prove Bruno wrong. And when a man like Bruno says something, it's like it's written in stone."

"It doesn't matter whether or not Bruno actually said it, and I don't believe he did. People think he said it, and that's all that matter. Every time Bruno denies saying it, things just get more confused."

"I'd like to get my hands on the guy who started this rumor. I'd break him in half. Even the Sheik would be shocked at my tactics that night."

"Backlund has taken it right between the teeth. Most guys would've quit. Backlund is a champion."

About one statement there can be no doubt: Things are now twice as hard as ever for Bob Backlund. □

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★ The Harley Race Story:
★ "HATRED IN MY HEART"

★ THE FEAR THAT WILL
★ ALWAYS HAUNT
★ BOB BACKLUND



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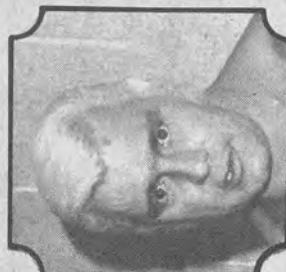
OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation



Champion:
BOB BACKLUND

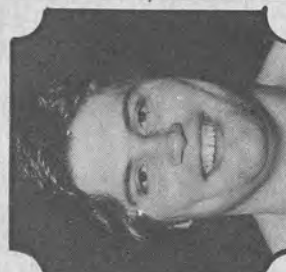


1—PAT PATTERSON

American Wrestling Association



Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL



1—JIM BRUNZELL

National Wrestling Alliance

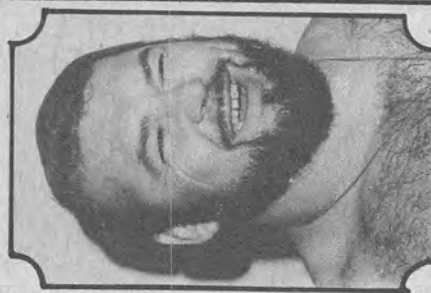


Champion:
HARLEY RACE



1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—IVAN PUTSKI



2—DUSTY RHODES

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—GREG VALENTINE



2—RIC FLAIR

Tag Teams



1—THE VALIANT BROTHERS





2—GREG
VALENTINE



3—BULLDOG
BROWER



4—IVAN PUTSKI

- 5—TED DiBIASE
- 6—HOSSIE ARAB
- 7—PETER MAIVIA
- 8—JIM VALIANT
- 9—STEVE TRAVIS
- 10—VICTOR RIVERA



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—BILLY ROBINSON



4—GREG GAGNE

- 5—LARRY HENNIG
- 6—RAY STEVENS
- 7—PAT PATTERSON
- 8—SUPER
DESTROYER II
- 9—CRUSHER
- 10—STEVE
OLSONOSKI



2—RIC FLAIR



3—JIM GARVIN

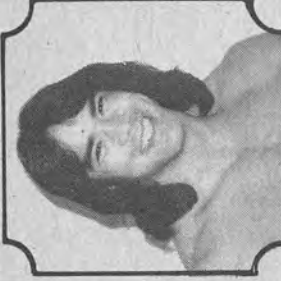


4—MASKED
SUPERSTAR

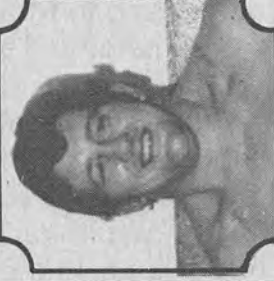
- 5—MR. WRESTLING
II
- 6—KEN PATERA
- 7—DICK MURDOCH
- 8—RICK
STEAMBOAT
- 9—MARK LEWIN
- 10—EDDY
MANSFIELD



3—ANDRE
THE GIANT



4—RICK
STEAMBOAT



5—BILLY ROBINSON

- 6—MR. WRESTLING
II
- 7—MIKE GRAHAM
- 8—JIMMY SNUKA
- 9—JACK BRISCO
- 10—TED DiBIASE



3—MASKED
SUPERSTAR



4—PETER MAIVIA



5—ERNIE LADD

- 6—ABDULLAH THE
BUTCHER
- 7—MONGOLIAN
STOMPER
- 8—PAUL JONES
- 9—HARLEY RACE
- 10—NICK
BOCKWINKEL



2—JIMMY SNUKA &
PAUL ORNDORFF



3—RAY STEVENS &
PAT PATTERSON



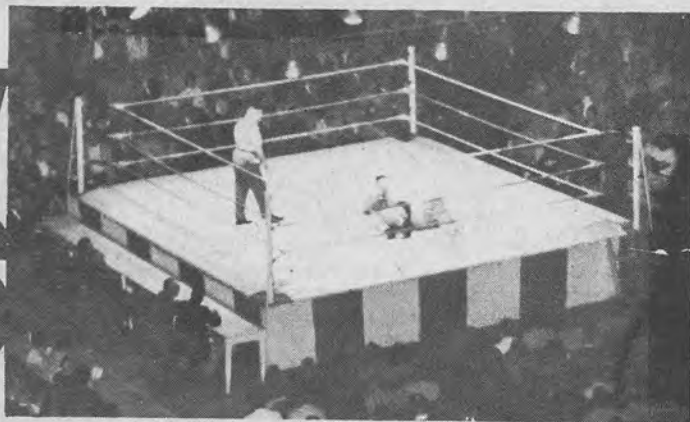
- 4—JOHN STUDD &
KEN PATERA
- 5—OLE ANDERSON
& IVAN KOLOFF
- 6—MIKE GRAHAM
& STEVE KEIRN
- 7—BOB ROOP &
BOB ORTON JR.
- 8—SPOILER &
MARK LEWIN
- 9—GREG GAGNE &
JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—THE ASSASSINS

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WRONG ON ALL COUNTS

I suppose you have to print stories like "Why Bruiser Says: 'Harley Race Is The Worst Champion In History!'" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1979), but you should also print another opinion. I think Harley is the greatest champ ever! Well, maybe not ever, but he's sure in the top five.

While Bruiser is shooting his big mouth off, Harley is showing how great he is. Against any number of opponents, Harley conquers. Look how long he's been champion. Look at the many men he's beaten. Harley is incredible.

Bruiser says he wants to be champion. Well, he'll have to beat Harley Race to do it. I don't think he can.

BOB FINCH

Leavenworth, Kan.

HONOR DAY

I believe there should be an "Honor Verne Gagne Day" in Minneapolis. It's only fitting to have it here because Verne got started in Minneapolis in the summer of 1949.

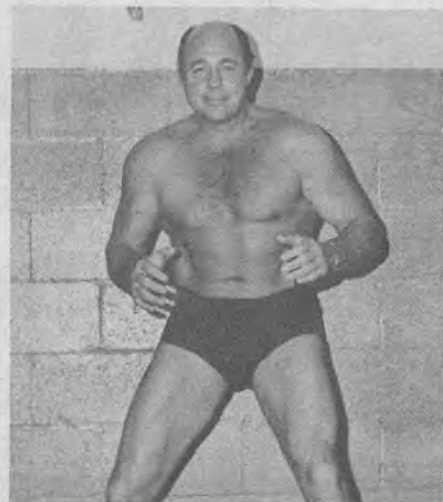
I hope fans all over the world, perhaps by cable TV, could join us in honoring not only a great athlete, but also a great humanitarian. Verne has given his time to help the Heart Fund, Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy.

He is a great wrestler, a great champion and a great human being.

JOSEPH EMENS

Minneapolis, Minn.

Harley Race is about to drive a knee into a helpless Ox Baker (below). Bob Finch thinks Race is a great champ. Reader Joseph Emens would like to honor the great Verne Gagne (above) with a day.



NO SYMPATHY

Bulldog Brower asks "Doesn't Anyone Feel Sorry For Me?" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1979). Well, nobody should.

As the interview shows, he's a disgusting maniac. A disgrace. I don't see why he hasn't been banned from wrestling. Dirty wrestlers like Brower make the whole sport look bad.

Now with Lou Albano behind him, Brower is sure to be more dangerous than ever. If he succeeds in taking the WWF title from Bob Backlund (though I pray he doesn't), all wrestling will suffer. The fans will suffer worst of all.

I don't feel sorry for Brower. I feel hatred.

THERESA MAY
Harrisburg, Pa.

(Continued on page 56)



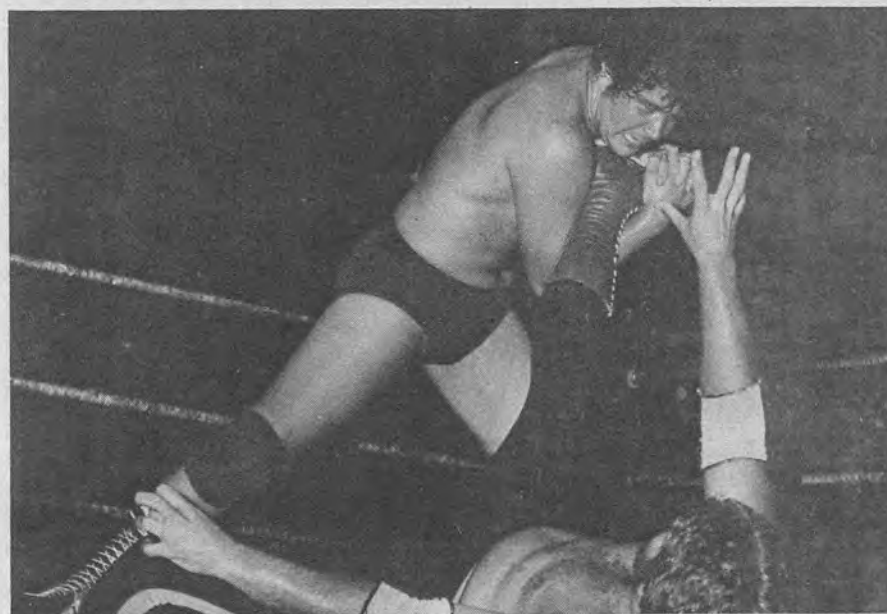
INSIDE WRESTLING

37

CAPSULE PROFILE

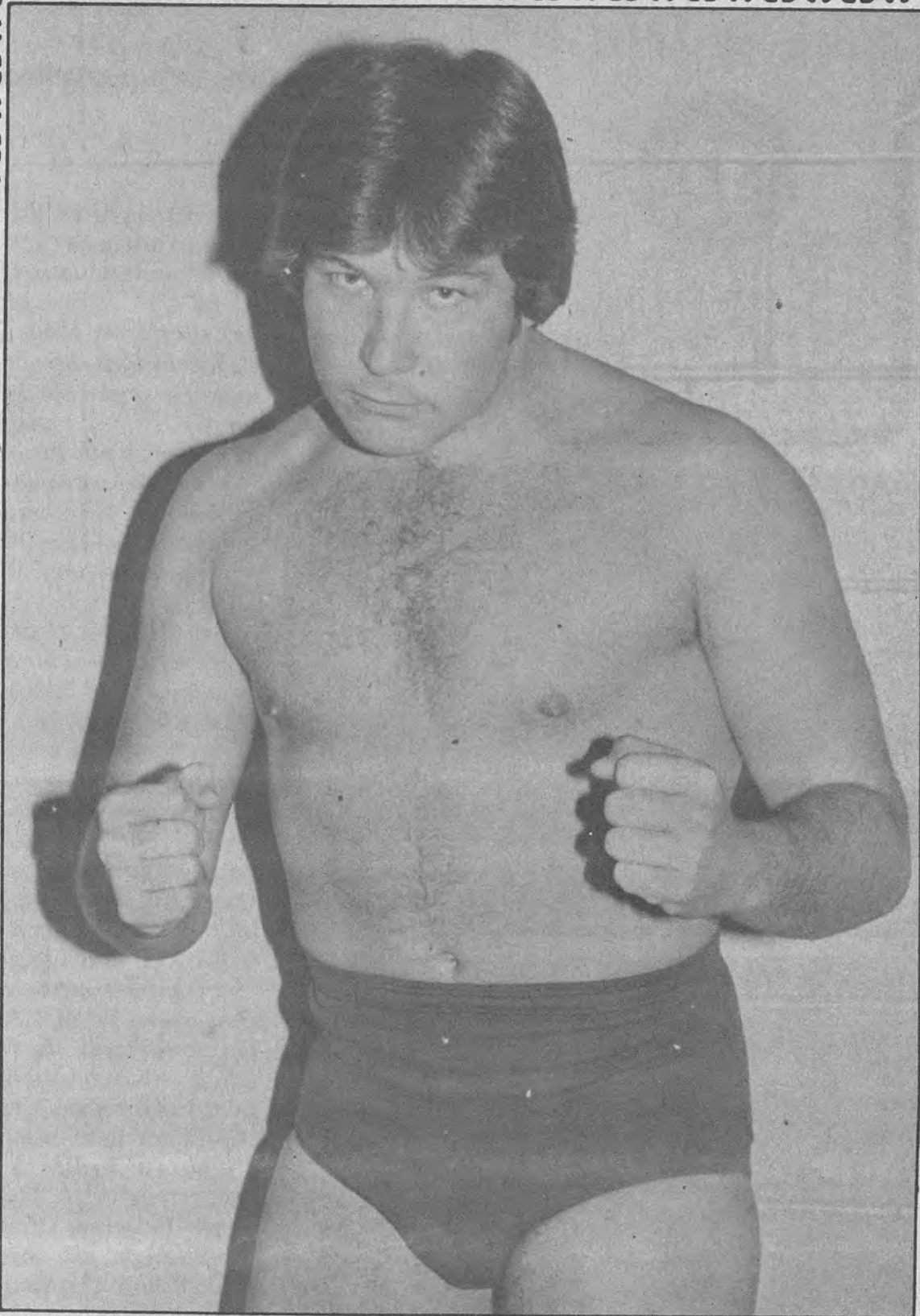
TED DiBIASE

DiBiase slugs it out with Dick Murdoch (below). Displaying his awesome repertoire of scientific holds, DiBiase applies pressure against a confused foe (bottom). Ted is one of the most promising young stars in the sport today.



A RARE SPECIMEN who combines strength, speed and chivalry (*"I try to be nice"*) . . . Son of former wrestler Iron Mike DiBiase (*"Dad taught me everything he knew about life and wrestling"*) . . . First gained attention when he won the Missouri heavyweight title, a traditional springboard to greater achievements (*"Aside from my first win, that was my biggest thrill"*) . . . While in the Midwest, became only man to ever win a *pinfall* decision over NWA champ Harley Race . . . Has erected a reputation of wisdom and maturity (*"This sport makes you grow up"*) . . . Tough inventiveness and courageous spontaneity characterize his wrestling style (*"I plan something. If it doesn't work, you gotta improvise"*) . . . From Missouri he ventured east to the WWF (*"As far as I'm concerned, the WWF is where it's happening"*) . . . Swiftly, he won the North American heavyweight title (*"What a night. A dream come true"*) . . . Though he finds brawling disgusting, will tangle if necessary (*"Wrestling is survival"*) . . . Already mentioned as WWF champ Bob Backlund's toughest competition (*"Bob is a great wrestler. It'd be a delight to wrestle him"*). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



TED DiBIASE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

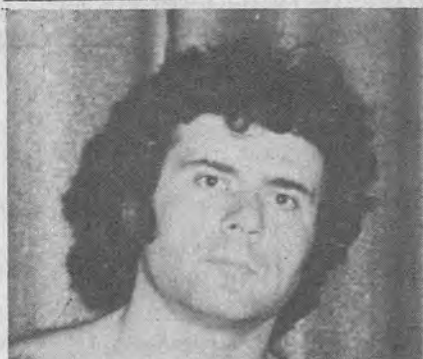
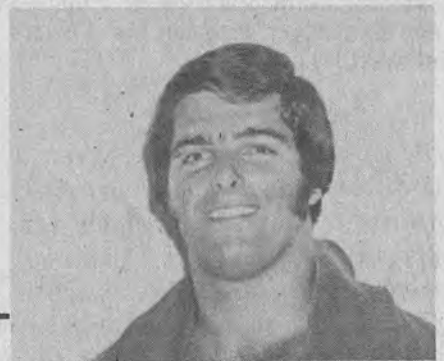


DON MURACO

Presently under the evil hand of manager Sonny King in Florida. Has been appearing as the "Magnificent M" in Florida. For a while, his identity was a secret. Then Steve Keirn unmasked him. Don wants his last name spelled "Moroco" as part of his campaign to bury his past.

RAYMOND ROUGEAU

A worthy heir to the famous Rougeau family tradition, Raymond is currently wrestling in Georgia. He keeps many of his ambitions quiet, but the Georgia heavyweight title is said to be the apple of his affections.

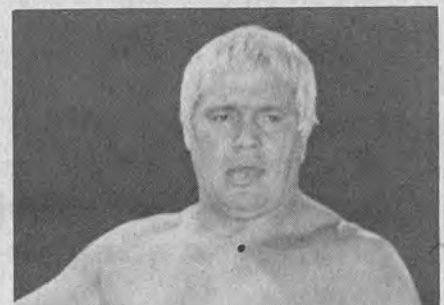


SPIROS ARION

After a short world-wide tour, Arion has disappeared! Rumors abound that he is living in New Zealand. Others whisper he is somewhere in the Orient. Still others swear he is wrestling in South America. A shawl of silence covers his friends. No one will say where he is. No one.

PAT PATTERSON

Patterson intends to maintain a dual wrestling citizenship. While keeping a number of commitments in the AWA, Pat has been brought into the WWF by the Grand Wizard. Rumors say some foul conspiracy is afoot involving the Wizard, Patterson and Backlund's title.



ONE ON



The charismatic Superstar Billy Graham and his manager, the gaudy Grand Wizard of wrestling.

(At one time, they were a devastating team. One the vicious, brawny rulebreaker champion. The other, a wily guardian managing to sensational heights. Circumstances intervened and they were separated. Losing the title and confusion of purpose caused the split. Through the picture-phone, they have been re-united to offer perspective on their time together and their time apart. From his multi-acre ranch in Arizona, Superstar Billy Graham speaks to the incomparable Grand Wizard, situated in his New York offices.)



Picturephones
courtesy of Bell Telephone

GRAND WIZARD:

How's the weather out there?

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM:

Hot. Nice and hot. Tan my beautiful body.

GW: Keeping yourself in shape, I hope.

SG: Never out of it. You know that better than anyone.

GW: Ah, I remember that wondrous, wonderful,

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

NONE



Simulated photos



Graham is winning a power battle of fingerlocks against current WWF champion Bob Backlund.

marvelous night when you beat the Italian Scallion Sammartino for the title.

SG: He whined and cried all the way around. Whiner, stupid, ugly whiner.

GW: You showed 'em, Superstar.

SG: That started things, didn't it? Victory after victory.

GW: Paycheck after paycheck.

SG: Yeah, minus your cut.

GW: Hey, wasn't I worth it?

SG: (Softly) Just kidding.

GW: Yeah, well. We had some fine times.

SG: Until it ended.

GW: Yeah, that punk Backlund.

SG: But it shouldn't have ended.

GW: You were robbed, Superstar, totally . . .

SG: No, not that. I was cheated, but I've learned to expect that from those goody guys. I'm just learning to expect it from friends.

GW: Be careful who your friends

are, Superstar.

SG: Like I always wondered why I didn't get any title shots after Backlund stole the title.

GW: Yeah?

SG: Like my manager was supposed to get me title shots.

GW: I tried, I tried. They wouldn't deal with me.

SG: Not what I heard.

GW: Who said so?

SG: People said you kinda washed your hands of me when I lost the belt. People said.

GW: Not true, Superstar. You're my main man, always have been, always will be.

SG: Maybe.

GW: We went to the top together. We whipped all the
(Continued on page 64)

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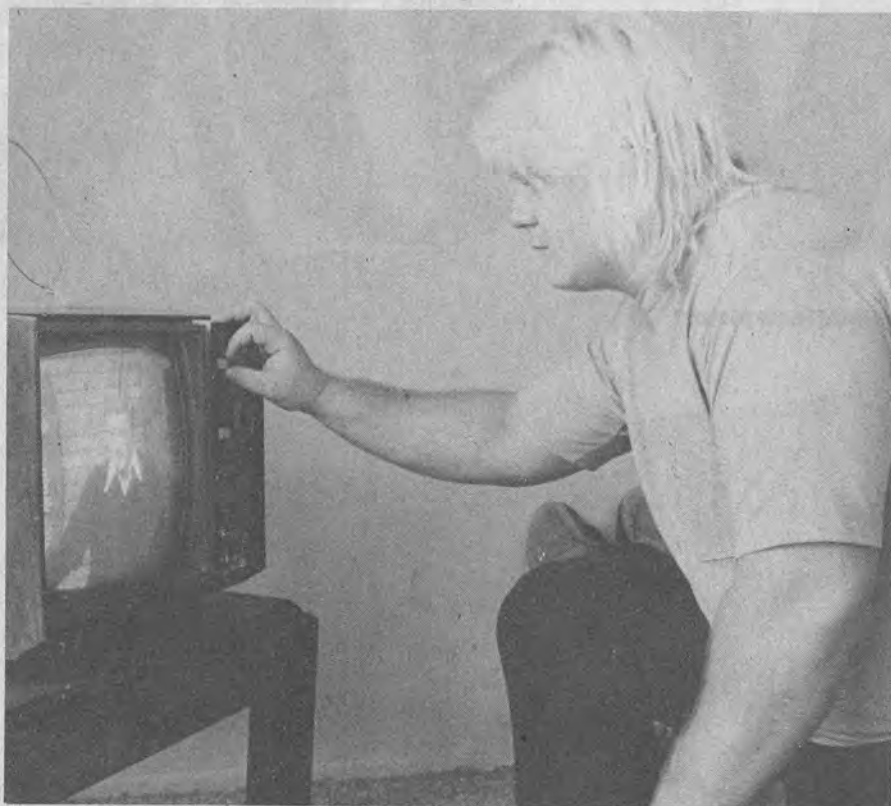
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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 10)



Valentine adjusts the television set in his hotel room (above). Valentine fooled Gary Morgenstein by acting as if he were a friendly, warm man. In a touching moment, Greg poses with his cat, "Leglock."



gasoline truck, we arrived at the hotel. Matt staggered out, mumbling something about filling a prescription. He came back a few minutes later with a brown bag and wet lips. Poor Matt.

Poor me! Brock'll never drive my car again!

Valentine had showered me with humility. He asserted that the public was misinformed, that he never purposefully sought to cripple anyone and that he was merely over-zealous.

I didn't make the decision to ask the staff to meet Valentine without serious contemplation. I pushed aside Valentine's comments, shoved away the Grand Wizard's self-serving words, and focused on what I wanted to find out.

Was Valentine sincere? If he was, then further criticism would be unfair. If he wasn't, then all we would have lost was gasoline. My journalistic curiosity would be satisfied.

But I really thought Greg Valentine was leveling with me. Little did I know the shrewd trap being set.

"Come in, friends," Valentine said as he waved a bronze muscular arm and pointed to a long blue couch with matching chairs.

Hesitantly, the staff was seated.

"I'm sorry Morgy told you that I'm really a nice guy," Valentine said, rising and approaching us. "I convinced Morgy I never cripple anyone on purpose. Well..."

Suddenly, I saw the deception. And the treachery. And the three other rulebreakers who had stepped out from the other room.

Lou Albano. Peter Maivia. Victor Rivera.

Brock stiffened. King and Gordon paled. Shocket laughed. Farhood cleaned his nails. Apter took pictures of the bowl of fruit.

I was humiliated. I knew they wouldn't attempt physical harm. All they wanted was to embarrass me, discredit me, ruin my position at the magazine. By showing the flaws in my judgement, they felt my future articles and future assignments would be questioned back at the office.

They guessed wrong. They didn't count on the integrity of my colleagues.

"You feel stupid, don't you, Morgy?" Valentine said sneeringly.

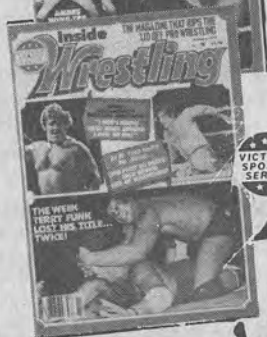
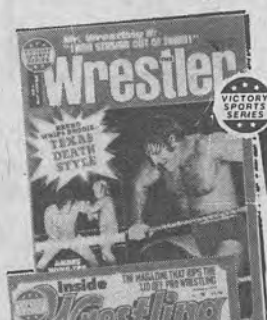
It took our beloved editor-in-chief to set him straight.

"Gary was wrong because he was too nice," King said, standing and glaring at the cringing Valentine. "Your ploy worked. Now you have no plausibility, Valentine. Come on, guys, let's go home."

Carried by those brave words, the staff of INSIDE WRESTLING returned to the office. Cleansed and together. □

Don't Be Caught Short!

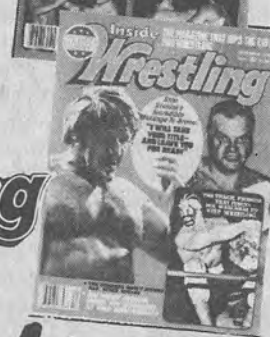
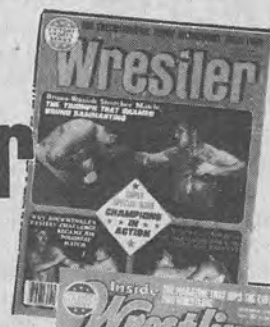
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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 18)

four full-length films of Rogers in action recently? I'll tell you why, Harley. You know that if the two of you wrestled on your best nights, he'd destroy you. You purchased the films hoping to spot a weakness in Rogers. Forget it, Harley! When a person is a loser like you, nothing helps.

At a recent match in Greensboro, North Carolina, I witnessed a strange occurrence. Paul Jones was wrestling Ric Flair for Flair's U.S. heavy-weight title. Nearly every seat in the arena was filled. When the ring announcer introduced Jones, the large crowd erupted in a chorus of boos and catcalls. That was expected. Then the ring announcer introduced Flair. Surprisingly, shockingly, there was an explosion of cheers. I was stunned. I couldn't believe my ears. Ric Flair was actually being given an ovation! The reason for the ovation was not because the fans love Ric Flair, but because they hate Paul Jones so much. They were desperately rooting to see Flair destroy the notorious turncoat rulebreaker.

As Flair was being cheered, I could see in his eyes that he enjoyed the unusual sounds. After the match, I approached him and asked how he felt.

"I hated it," said Flair. "Hated it worse than having root canal. I hope I never hear another cheer for me again! I will make sure of that!"

I looked into Flair's eyes. I could tell he didn't mean it. He quickly turned away. Ric knew his eyes were revealing the truth. He loved being cheered, but wouldn't admit it, especially to me.

I think the day is approaching when we will see a change in Ric Flair, a change for the better. I don't think the change will occur overnight. It will take effort on your part to let him know you want a different Ric Flair. Cheer him every time you see him. Write letters to this magazine telling him how much you care, if indeed you really do. After a while, all the hate that has built up inside Flair will turn to love and goodness, and the wrestling world will have itself a new scientific wrestler. On that day, the victory party for all of wrestling is on me.

I spent a recent afternoon on the ranch of Chief Jay Strongbow, who has recuperated from a broken leg, caused by the sadistic Greg Valentine. Strongbow is training extremely hard, waiting anxiously for the night he meets Valentine in a return match.

"I have never wanted to hurt a man so badly," said Strongbow. "I will destroy him not just out of revenge for myself, but for all the talented wrestlers Valentine has injured and crippled, I want to be the one to end the career of Greg Valentine!"

I truly hope Strongbow's seething hatred of Valentine doesn't work in reverse and lead to Strongbow's destruction. He says he knows what he is doing. I really hope so.

The Grand Wizard was recently frightened out of an arena when he found six of the cutest garter snakes inside his turban. His sudden exit apparently upset the exceedingly untalented Greg Valentine, who refused to wrestle without his manager in his corner. I've always said Valentine was helpless without the Grand Wizard's evil assistance! □

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BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 8)

returns to the interview. "I was looking for a quote. Couldn't find it. No matter. There's nothing to say, really. They're the champions. I'm not. I'm really happy for them. Whoopee."

Did Jim expect Jerry to step down when he returned?

"I don't expect anything," Jim answers, but adds, "I wouldn't talk him out of it if he did. I'm a champion. I just don't have a belt."

Jimmy is now wrestling in six-man tag team matches with the champions. Lou Albano is managing the trio. Many think Jimmy resents his brothers, Albano and the whole awkward situation.

"I'm a professional," he says, "and I do anything that makes me a couple of bucks. It's not the best of all possible worlds, but what the hell is? So I wrestle with my brothers, under the guidance of Lou Albano.

"When I was champion a few years ago, I always said Albano was a genius. Times change and so do people. A genius would find a way to make me champion."

Jimmy Valiant, perhaps the greatest tag team grappler in the history of wrestling, walks out of the room. His body is shaking. From another room comes the sound of a fist smashing into a wall. You don't have to look to know there's a hole in the wall.

The next night, Jimmy Valiant is booed by the fans. The clods think the grappler is cheating. There's no way they can understand his majesty of movements, brilliance of imagination and awesome strength. Instead, they demand he follow some stupid



The WWF tag team champions, Jerry and Johnny Valiant, doubleteam a helpless foe. While brother Jimmy is happy for his brothers, he must be jealous.

rule made to protect the weak and dull. Jimmy Valiant is too good to listen to other people's rules.

The fans don't realize their booing means nothing. But the fools would take pleasure in knowing of Jimmy's torments. They can't appreciate greatness. All they want is mumbling morons pretending to be noble. Well, they get who they deserve.

For those few smart enough to care, the saga of Jim Valiant will be of primary interest. Will he get a solo title? Will he desert his brothers? What of the coming confrontation with Albano? The next few months will see the tale unfold.

It is sad when great men must be in conflict. The real loser is always wrestling. □

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MARK LEWIN

(Continued from Page 27)



get hard, if you know what I mean. Ruthless in an ugly way. I used to get upset, so I stopped going. 'It's part of the business,' Mark used to say. Well, I didn't have to see him work, did I? Besides, he used to visit me more often then. But I didn't enjoy seeing my Mark become cruel.

"Then, he got worse. He turned on the fans, wrestled dirty. He still said, 'It's part of the business,' but you can't keep quiet when he wrestles dirty. I told him to stop. Go back to being a scientific wrestler, I told him. You're too good for this. But he tried to kid me out of it, saying things like, 'The only thing too good for me is you're cooking,' but I wouldn't let him get away with it. I'd say, 'Don't sweet-talk me! This is serious.' Would he listen, though? We should all live so long.

"There were times he went back to being a scientific wrestler. We were all so proud. Then, he'd go right back to being a rulebreaker. It would break our hearts. He was always such a good boy.

"It's wrestling. The kind of work he does, the kind of people he meets, it's just too tough for a man. It makes him



A bloodied Lewin uses a foreign object on another cruel man, the Sheik (top). Lewin punishes Terry Funk (above) and Dusty Rhodes (below). Lewin's Aunt Birdie doesn't like Mark's style.



cruel, makes him crazy. I look at Mark wrestle now and I don't recognize him. There's something horrible about him, in his eyes. I love him, but it hurts me to look in his eyes. And the things he's saying, I'd rather go deaf than hear them. It's a disgrace.

"Mark isn't like that. He's a good boy, a fine human being. I could tell you wonderful things he did for the family, but it would take years to tell it all. But that doesn't mean what he's done in the ring can be forgiven.

"That's why I called you. I thought maybe if he sees how much he's hurting his family, that I'd actually talk to a magazine writer, maybe then he'd change his mind. It's a desperate measure. These are desperate times. Wrestling has ruined Mark, made him a killer.

"I'd do anything to get Mark away from that Gary Hart. That man is such a bad influence. He takes Mark and makes him do horrible things.

"But it takes wrestling to make Mark fall under the influence of a Gary Hart. The sport makes men hard, makes them evil. I used to love wrestling. Now I hate it. I hate it for what it's done to Mark."

I finished my coffee. There wasn't anything to say. You tend to forget that rulebreakers have families, people who cry at night while their loved ones are booed. These suffering souls should not be forgotten.

"Please put it all in the magazine," Aunt Birdie implored as I left. Well, here it is. In her own words, the depth of her sorrow.

Maybe Mark Lewin will listen. Maybe all the Mark Lewins will listen. It's worth a try. For Aunt Birdie's sake.

I'm not sure I want to live in a world where a man listens to Gary Hart and ignores Aunt Birdie. ☐

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SONNY KING

(Continued from Page 31)



Garvin survives a headlock applied by the dangerous Bugsy McGraw. Is Garvin currently being controlled by the evil Sonny King? We sincerely doubt it.



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implications, one must understand Garvin's growing stature and King's spreading greed.

Currently, Garvin is Florida heavyweight champion. It has been a long, arduous climb for the personable youngster. Along the way, one man was instrumental in teaching him the subtle skills which led to the coveted title.

"Killer Karl Kox taught me those last few things I needed to go over the top," Garvin said. "Think I'd turn my back on him?"

Again, King's response upon hearing Garvin's comment was a menacing smile.

When King brandished the slip of paper and claimed he owned scientific wrestlers, it was merely another example of Sonny's fiendish ambitions.

"I want them all. And I have them all. Money talks and money buys," King has often thundered. "Once I wave my

dough around, they come crawling."

According to King, Garvin is his latest possession.

"I own Garvin lock, stock and bootstrap," King finally admitted. "Garvin's been on the take for a long time now. Kox took his orders from me. All part of my divine plan to conquer Florida wrestling."

"Wait 'till you hear which big-shot masked Georgia good guy is cashing my checks," King said as he laughed.

Disproving King can be difficult. Men like King have many ways to shred evidence.

One way is to destroy those so-called "cancelled" checks Garvin supposedly cashed. Next time King should be more careful and tear them into a million little pieces. Scotch tape can reconstruct a piece of paper ripped in two.

What miraculous surgery revealed was a check cancelled

and signed by King himself. Garvin never touched it.

And King should be careful where and when he says he plotting. It was in a local diner that King told a friend how he was going to "smear Garvin from one coast to the next."

A friendly waitress told us of that conversation. King hung up when confronted with this evidence. Garvin smiled easily.

"Someone has to stop King," said Jim. "No, not just in the ring. What he's pulling in Florida is worse than any foreign object or flying dropkick."



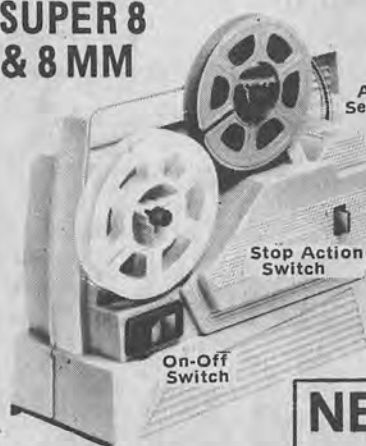
Jim Garvin has become dominant in Florida through scientific expertise, strength and quickness. He uses all maneuvers.

"Against a physical hold," Garvin emphasized somberly, "you can defend yourself. But what do you do when someone spreads rumors about you? What can you say, sticks and stones and that stuff?"

"All you can do is hope fans believe and trust you enough to disregard that sort of talk. And that there'll be some dedicated reporters who'll dig and probe for a story. Thanks," Garvin said, turning away with his head held high. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 40)



Captain Lou Albano (above) will remain manager of the Valiant Brothers, according to Jimmy Valiant. Reader Simon Strayt believes Ernie Ladd (right) could ruin Rick Steamboat. Ladd would like to make Rick a rulebreaker.

GREAT GORDON

I've been meaning for months to thank you for Randy Gordon's column *Behind The Dressing Room Door*. It's the best column I've ever read.

I love it when he plays those tricks on Ric Flair, Paul Jones, Ivan Koloff and all the others. He's an avenger. For those who say he shouldn't play tricks, why don't they think of what his victims do to their opponents?

I think Randy deserves a raise!

ALISON BEILENSON
 Shaker Heights, Ohio

OFFICIAL DENIAL

This is to inform you that the answer to your article, "Does Jimmy Valiant Want To Fire Lou Albano?" is "No!" Lou and I are on fine terms and plan to remain so.

Like all business partners, we sometimes disagree. But I wish to use this space to give Albano a vote of confidence. I have no manager in mind to replace him at this time.

If anyone should be fired, it's your reporter, Steven Farhood.

JIMMY VALIANT
New York, N.Y.



NEVER NEVER NEVER

Ernie Ladd should be driven from wrestling before he makes good on his threat, "I'll Turn Rick Steamboat Into A Dirty Wrestler!" (INSIDE WRESTLING/July 1979). No man should say that and still be allowed to wrestle.

Rick Steamboat is my favorite wrestler. I can see someone saying they might want to beat Rick, but to change him? There's no excuse for that.

I think Ernie Ladd is gross.
SIMON STRAYT
Biloxi, Miss. □

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 12)

FACT: While Both Bockwinkel and Race would love to see Backlund lose his title, it is highly doubtful they would combine to unseat him. Nick and Harley respect each other and speak frequently. Yet they can best be described as friendly enemies. Their egos and ambitions would not allow them to share the WWF spotlight. As for the pesky Heenan, most observers believe he has frequented WWF matches simply to scout rulebreaking talent for his infamous family.

RUMOR: Jerry Brisco will never be a major champion because brother Jack's massive ego would not allow for such a development to occur.

FACT: This rumor has been spreading around Florida faster than you can squeeze orange juice. Probably started by evil manager Sonny King, the wicked story has no basis. Jack has always pushed his brother's career, and would be happier than ever if Jerry won a major title.



Jerry Brisco (above), a top wrestling star and the brother of former NWA champion Jack Brisco. Billy Robinson (below left) has developed a cauliflower ear.

INJURY REPORT

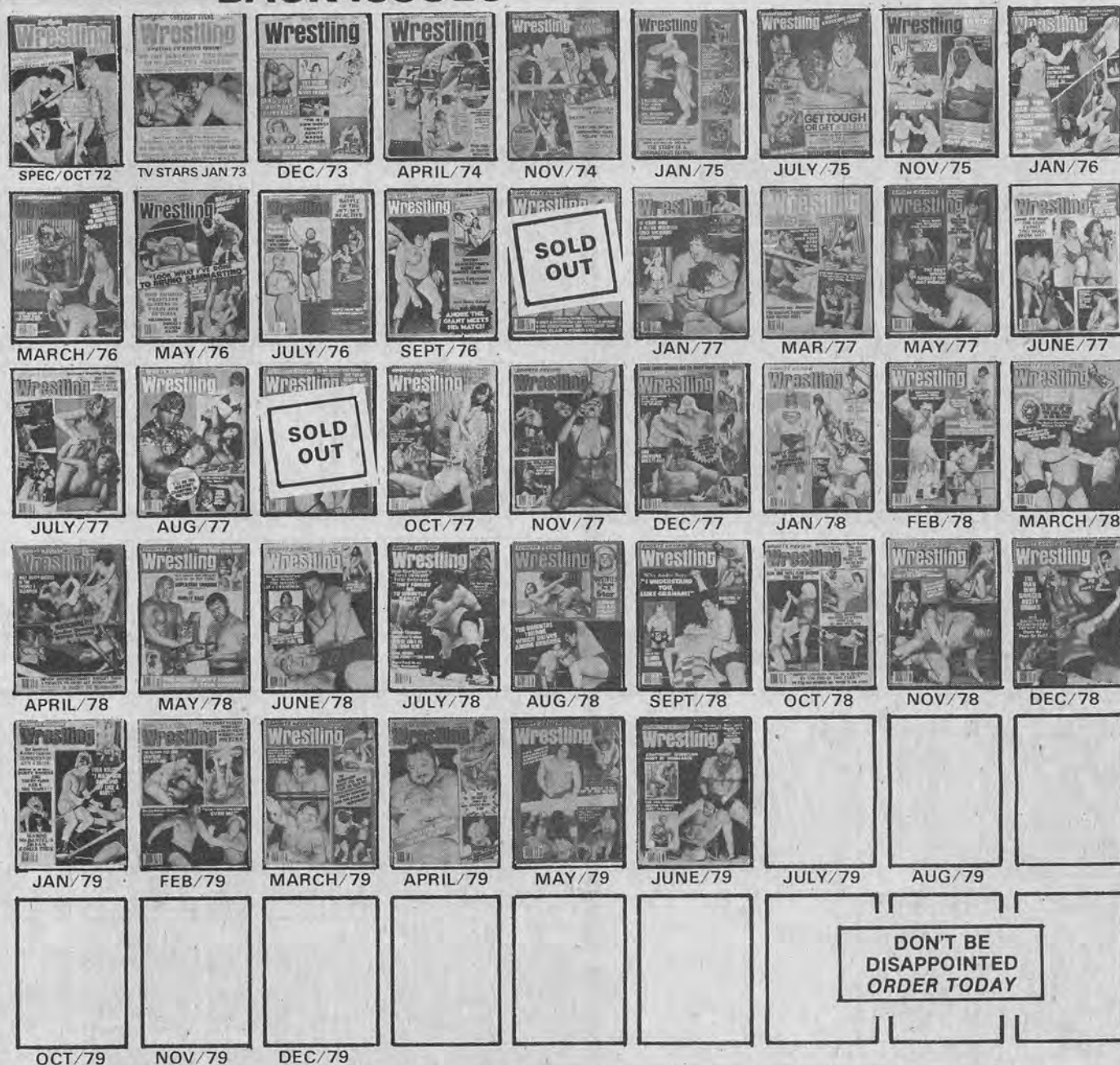
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW is recovering nicely from the broken leg he suffered after being trapped by Greg Valentine's dreaded figure-four leglock. The progress reports are positive, unless you believe Valentine. "That totem-pole will never wrestle again, and everybody knows it," Valentine said. "The doctors say he'll be able to walk again in a few years."

BILLY ROBINSON is developing a cauliflower ear, after absorbing countless side headlocks over the years. The condition is not expected to hinder his sensational career. "It's only right that Robinson should have the problem," said a merciless Nick Bockwinkel, "because he's been nothing but a vegetable all these years anyway!" Think you're funny don't ya, Nick. □



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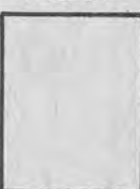
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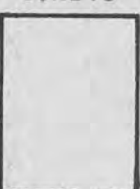
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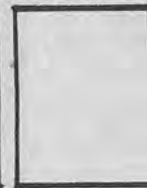
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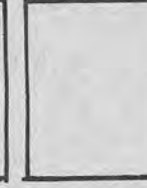
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Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat

(Continued from Page 33)

of attack.

"I can pull out a few new tricks," insisted Flair.

"Just wait and see," said Steamboat.

But their actions contradicted their words. A Flair-Steamboat match is never boring. But it is becoming repetitive.

The danger is two-fold. On one side is the potential for disabling injury due to the deadly array of maneuvers Flair and Steamboat share. When compared to the second potential tragedy, this pales.

Since there is no reason to conceal plans when they wrestle each other, Steamboat and Flair might continue that poor habit into other matches.

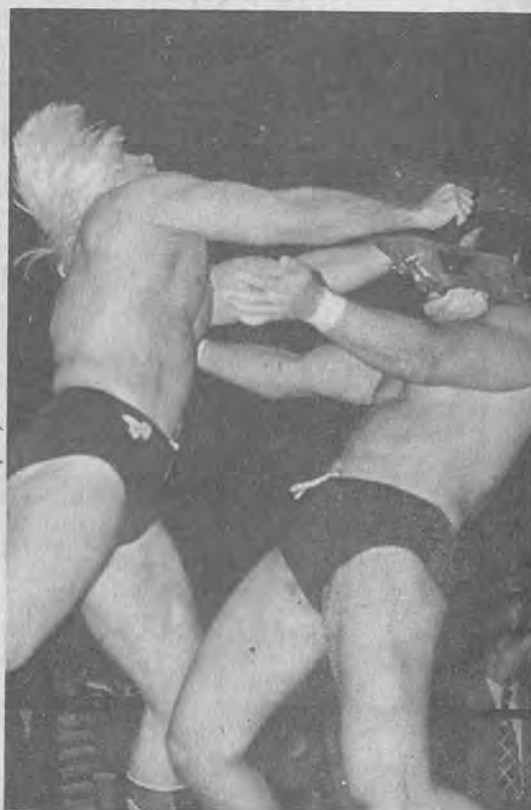
Instead of feinting and investigating, they might forget



Despite the referee's efforts, Flair tries to kick Steamboat out of the ring (above). Flair pursues a stunned Steamboat (above right). If Steamboat and Flair let their feud carry into other matches, they could easily incur injury. It is time for the grudge to halt.



Steamboat applies the pressure and Flair screams in agony (below left). Flair attacks Steamboat with the U.S. championship belt, currently owned by Flair (below). Steamboat won the belt from the evil rulebreaker, then lost it back.





where they are and who they are wrestling. If they waver for a brief moment, the result could be disastrous.

Any talented wrestler would destroy either man if they failed to abide by certain traditional rules. In any other feud, the wrestlers could remove themselves from the emotion and re-adjust with a fitting attitude.

Not here. The bitterness, the hatred is so intense, it is blinding.

"Sometimes I'll be wrestling someone and he'll pull some stunt and I'll get real angry," Steamboat said. "For a little while, a few seconds; I'll be reminded of Flair and then I'll go crazy. Usually, I get disqualified and only hurt myself."

Steamboat might be the one whose career will suffer the most. Flair's animal instincts serve him well in frenzied brawls. A purposeful disqualification is not beneath Flair.

But Steamboat believes in fighting to the very end. He's a proud, stubborn young man. Unless he does something about this war, he might not live to be a proud old man. ☐

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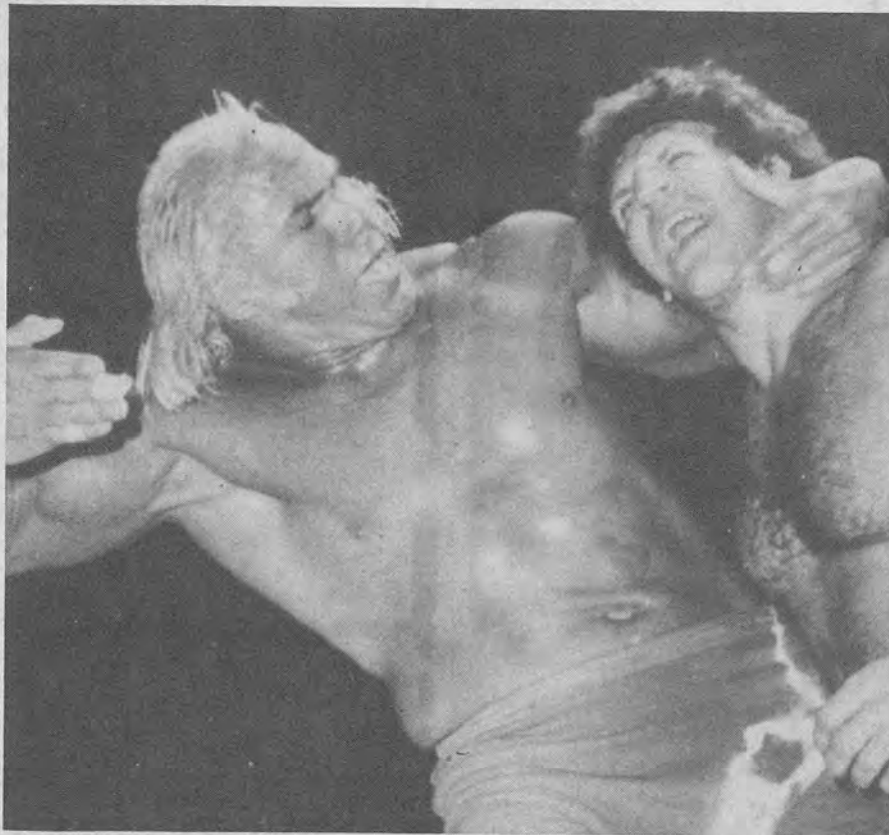
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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 45)



Rulebreaking tactics like these (above against Bruno Sammartino and below against Harley Race) have brought Superstar Graham much success in professional wrestling. The Grand Wizard often directs Graham's efforts.

cretins who said we couldn't win the title.

SG: We? I beat spaghetti-face Sammartino.

GW: With my strategy. We're a team, Superstar.

SG: As long as I'm on top.

GW: No sir, I never forget a friend, a wrestler, a comrade.

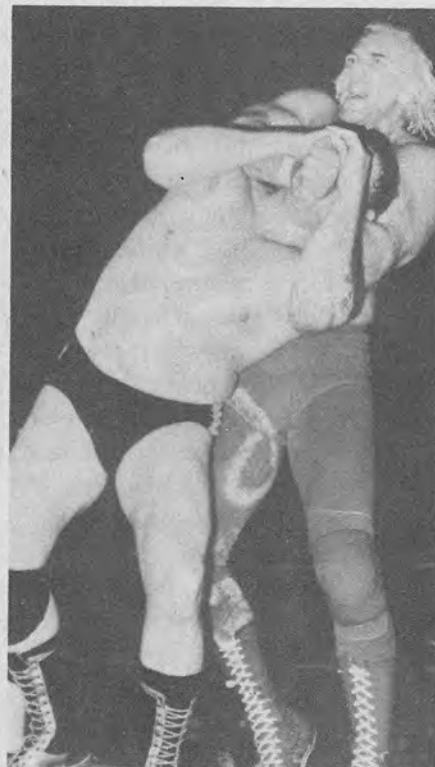
SG: Why didn't you return my phone calls?

GW: I've been busy. I've been working with the young Superstar Graham, Greg Valentine.

SG: So there's no time for me?

GW: Didn't say that. But I must groom Valentine because he may be the greatest ever. Uh, aside from you. So how are things otherwise?

SG: I was in Japan and scared the hair off those little





Graham demonstrates his awesome power against a helpless Dino Bravo. He may be the most powerful man in the sport. Has the Grand Wizard abandoned his former top star? Wizard denies this rumor.

twerps. You ain't never seen such fear as those little Japs running away from the all and powerful Graham. Warmed the cockles of my heart, daddy.

GW: I still think Bobby Backlund is the biggest coward I ever saw.

SG: Hah, pound for pound, linguini for linguini, Sammartino is the biggest coward.

GW: Well, you should know, Billy. You've wrestled all the greats.

SG: And I'll keep wrestling all of them.

GW: Good, well, listen, give me a call sometime.

SG: You've got an unlisted number.

GW: Write me, just write me. ☐

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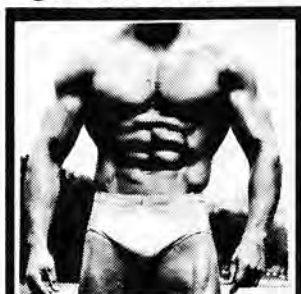
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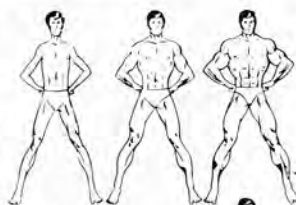
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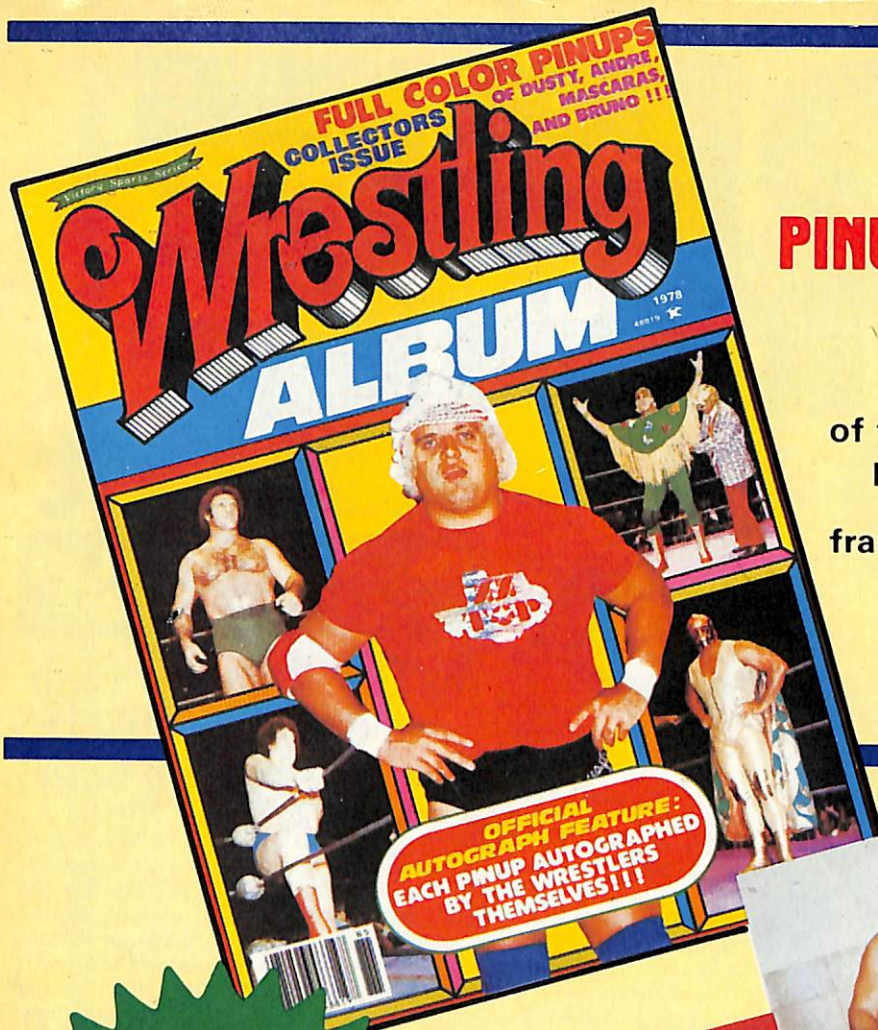


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